

MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

## THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY AWAITS YOU.

### EFFECTIVE PRICE OF ₹ 22.97 LAKH\*



OFFER VALID TILL 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**INVICTO**  
THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY



PANORAMIC SUNROOF WITH AMBIENT LIGHTS



2ND ROW CAPTAIN SEATS



POWERED DRIVER SEAT WITH MEMORY FUNCTION



MULTI-ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL (FRONT AND REAR)



ONE-TOUCH POWERED TAIL GATE

**3** years  
**100 000 km**  
WARRANTY\*  
EXTENDABLE UPTO 6 YEARS

INTELLIGENT  
ELECTRIC (HYBRID)



SCAN TO CONNECT TO  
A SHOWROOM NEAR YOU



E-BOOK TODAY @  
WWW.NEXAEXPERIENCE.COM

Contact us at  
**1800-200-6392**  
**1800-102-6392**

For detailed T&C kindly visit your nearest dealership. \*Ex. showroom Price of ₹24.97 lakh, Consumer Offer (-) ₹1 00 000, Exchange Bonus (-) ₹1 00 000 = ₹22.97 lakh. The actual Effective Price mentioned may vary based on the customer's eligibility, profile, and applicable offers at the time of purchase. Offer valid on Invicto Zeta+ 7S Variant. Creative visualization. \*\*All offers are brought to you by NEXA dealers only. Offers may vary subject to the model and variant purchased. All offers are applicable till stocks last. Maruti Suzuki reserves the right to withdraw offers at any point in time without any advance notice. Features and accessories shown may not be a part of the standard fitment. Black glass shade on the vehicle is due to the lighting effect. \*3 years or 100 000km whichever is earliest. Finance is at the sole discretion of financier and subject to customer profile. Above offers are valid till 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

# mid-day

Jagran November 21, 2025, Friday, 32 pages ₹5, Mumbai | Phone : 6831 4800 | Fax : 2642 6812 | www.mid-day.com



ZEE STUDIOS & WAVEBAND PRODUCTION PRESENT  
A WAVEBAND PRODUCTION FILM  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH MARUTI INTERNATIONAL & BALAJI TELEFILMS

Z STUDIOS

# MASTIII4

IN CINEMAS  
21<sup>ST</sup> NOV



DIRECTED BY MILAP MILAN ZAVERI

PRODUCED BY A JHUNJHUNWALA & SHIKHA KARAN AHLUWALIA PRODUCED BY INDRA KUMAR & ASHOK THAKERIA

PRODUCED BY SHOBHA KAPOOR & EKTA KAPOOR UK PRODUCERS YU FAI SUEN & GAURAV PRAKASH BAVDANKAR (EMM NINE SG)

WRITTEN BY FARRUKH DHONDY & MILAP MILAN ZAVERI DIALOGUES MILAP MILAN ZAVERI & ABHINAV VAIDYA

A Z STUDIOS WORLDWIDE RELEASE

INDIA'S NO. 1.  
NAUGHTIEST FRANCHISE IS BACK...

PROMOTIONS PARTNER

TIMEZONE

Z5 Z MUSIC CO.



## 'FAKE' COPS TURN OUT TO BE 'REAL' COPS

A Mulund East housing complex on edge over recent cases of fake-cop frauds in the area, refused to allow entry to a group from Tamil Nadu police who had come looking for a criminal; were convinced only when local cops confirmed their identities

AISHWARYA IYER  
aishwarya.iyer@mid-day.com

THERE was high drama at Mahakali Nagar in Mulund East earlier this week, when residents panicked after four men claiming to be from the Tamil Nadu Police arrived at their gate to meet a resident in connection with an alleged murder and fraud case on Sunday afternoon.

The alarm was immediate because several recent incidents in the eastern suburbs involved fraudsters posing as police officers. With fear of "cons as cops" running high, the society's security guard refused to let the four in. Even the resident they had come to meet insisted they return with Mumbai Police personnel before any conversation. » P02



Residents stop the team at the gate and demand ID. ILLUSTRATION/UDAY MOHITE; (below) CCTV grabs of the Tamil Nadu police team whose visit triggered panic in the Mulund society. PICS/BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**FOUR** No. of TN cops who arrived at the society



**'Their visit was low-key. They didn't want to attract attention, so they left without answering much. Residents found this suspicious and assumed they were fraudsters'** A police officer

## City's biggest indoor pool reopens!

Kamgar Stadium pool, in Parel that was shuttered during COVID and then for renovations, finally opens doors to public

HEMAL ASHAR  
hemal@mid-day.com

MUMBAI'S largest indoor swimming pool — measuring 50m in length and 18.5m in breadth — at the Maharashtra Kamgar Krida Bhavan complex in Parel was filling up with both recreational and competitive swimmers when mid-day visited the recently reopened facility on a weekday evening. » P10



**'This is one of the few public pools that are accessible because of its location. It is close to several public transport hubs, and the fees are reasonable'** Viradhwal Khade, Olympian athlete and swimming coach

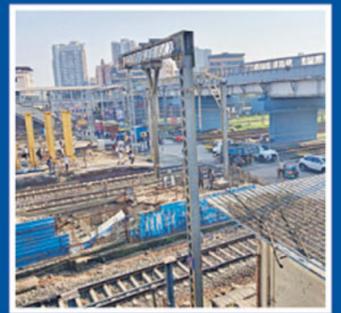
Swimmers fly off the diving blocks at the Kamgar Krida Bhavan pool in Parel. PICS/SHADAB KHAN

## THE SEVEN HANGING WONDERS OF MUMBAI

Central Railway red-flags seven road overbridges across city that the railways have completed but literally remain hanging after local bodies fail to do their bit » P05



The Diva road overbridge stands finished on the railway side but remains unusable without approaches



Daily traffic pile-up at the Diva level crossing, which opens over 140 times a day. PICS/BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Tomaaaahto!

Repercussions of unseasonal rain felt in home and hotel kitchens in city after price of tomatoes soars from ₹25 to ₹60 recently



Residents across the city say they are feeling the pinch every day. PIC/AMARJEET SINGH

**₹55 to ₹60**  
Tomato prices per kg at retail outlets on Thursday

AMARJEET SINGH  
mailbag@mid-day.com

THE price of kitchen essentials, particularly tomatoes, has skyrocketed across Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, and Thane, triggering alarm among households and the hotel industry. Heavy unseasonal rain in key growing belts of Karnataka and interior Maharashtra has disrupted supplies to the Vashi APMC, pushing prices up at every level — from wholesale markets to local retail and app-based delivery platforms. » P03

**'Truck arrivals are unpredictable. Prices are high, and we cannot stock much due to the risk of spoilage. Customers are also buying less'**

Sanjay Karande, a wholesale trader at APMC

# Cops grilled at the gate

Mulund residents quiz four plainclothes Tamil Nadu officers, fearing yet another 'fake cop' scam

AISHWARYA IYER

aishwarya.iyer@mid-day.com

THERE was high drama at Mahakali Nagar in Mulund East earlier this week, when residents panicked after four men claiming to be from the Tamil Nadu Police arrived at their gate to meet a resident in connection with an alleged murder and fraud case on Sunday afternoon.

The alarm was immediate because several recent incidents in the eastern suburbs involved fraudsters posing as police officers. With fear of "cons as cops" running high, the society's security guard refused to let the four in. Even the resident they had come to meet insisted they return with Mumbai Police personnel before any conversation.

Residents said the men introduced themselves as officers but were not accompanied by any local police team. "We didn't want to take a chance," one resident said, adding that the group quickly left after saying they would return with Mumbai Police.

Residents then briefly questioned the visitors at the gate. During a short exchange in English with the security guard and a few members of the society, the visitors were asked to show their ID cards and explain why they were not in uniform. They claimed they were keeping their identities discreet. Skeptical residents continued questioning them.

"Their visit was low-key. They didn't want to attract attention, so they left without answering much. Residents found this suspicious and assumed they were fraudsters," a police official said.

To clear their doubts, residents went to the nearby Navghar police station. What they learned surprised them. The four men were indeed Tamil Nadu Police officers, led by a sub-inspector, and had travelled to Mumbai to trace a wanted accused believed to be hiding in the area, confirmed Rakesh Ola, DCP Zone 7.

Police said the officers were from the Nanguneri police station in Tirunelveli district and were searching for a "sharp and notorious" accused wanted for property damage and extortion, and with a history of violent crimes. The accused had been on the run for weeks, frequently shifting locations,

**According to Parag Sonawane, senior police inspector of Navghar police station, the Tamil Nadu team had initially contacted Crime Branch Unit 5 for assistance. Since the unit was occupied with another case, the matter was handed over to Navghar police**



1 Tamil Nadu police team arrives in Mulund for a covert search operation. Their quiet recce at the society triggers confusion and alarm among residents. ILLUSTRATION/UDAY MOHITE



2 Residents stop the team at the gate and demand ID. With 'fake cop' scams fresh in mind, society grills them before letting them leave

forcing the team to chase him across states.

According to Parag Sonawane, senior police inspector of Navghar police station, the Tamil Nadu team

had initially contacted Crime Branch Unit 5 for assistance. Since the unit was occupied with another case, the matter was handed over to the Navghar police. The visiting team then coordinated with Navghar's detection officer, and both sides agreed to work together.

Before the joint operation began, the four officers conducted a quiet recce of the



3 Residents and officers land at Navghar police station. Local police confirm visitors are genuine Tamil Nadu cops tracking a wanted fugitive

locality to avoid alerting the accused. But this attempt at secrecy inadvertently triggered panic among residents.

Mumbai Police confirmed that although the Tamil Nadu team had informed Navghar police before beginning inquiries, they did not take local personnel along during the initial visit. "If they had, this misunderstanding would not have happened," a resident said.

Sonawane added, "The team is still in Mumbai. Their investigation is ongoing. We have assured them full support. I have spoken to their superiors in Tamil Nadu to understand the case. The same team will be back on weekends to trace and arrest the accused. Mumbai Police always supports other state police forces."

DYSP Dharshika Natarajan confirmed that it was her team



CCTV grab of the Tamil Nadu police team whose visit triggered panic in the Mulund society. PICS/BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**'The team is still in Mumbai. Their investigation is ongoing. We have assured them full support. I have spoken to their superiors in Tamil Nadu to understand the case. The same team will be back on weekends to trace and arrest the accused'**

Parag Sonawane, senior police inspector of Navghar police station

from Nanguneri that had been deployed to Mumbai for the investigation. In a statement, Tamil Nadu Police clarified, "We had informed Mumbai Police about our arrival, but the local team was slightly busy at the time our four-member unit reached the location. There was no miscommunication or confusion. Our officers had received specific intel on the accused, and given his history of absconding, they moved quickly to try and apprehend him before he was alerted." Officials added that the case is registered under the Tamil Nadu Public Property (Prevention of Damage and Loss) Act, 1992. When asked for further details, Natarajan said, "The case is still under investigation and highly sensitive. We cannot disclose information about the case or the accused at this stage."

# BMC to hire NGOs to clear hawkers from footpaths

Ahead of 2026 polls, civic body turns to outside help to free Andheri West footpaths and upgrade pedestrian spaces



Hawkers cleared outside Andheri West station. PIC/SATEJ SHINDE

**EESHANPRIYA MS**  
eeshan.priya@mid-day.com

AHEAD of the civic elections scheduled for early 2026, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has begun roping in non-governmental organisations to deploy labour and evict unauthorised hawkers from Andheri's streets. In addition, the civic body has floated at least four tenders in the past week aimed at improving pedestrian experience in the K West ward, which includes Andheri. The tenders focus on upgrading footpaths, street furniture and road conditions, and identifying ways to make walkways safer and more accessible.

NGOs and self-help groups

have previously been employed by the BMC to manage parking lots and clear garbage in slum and semi-residential pockets across Kurla, Andheri, Chembur and Govandi. Over the past week, the civic body, with assistance from Mumbai Police, has carried out multiple drives to evict hawkers from footpaths in Andheri.

On Monday, the BMC issued a public notice announcing that it is seeking NGOs to "take eviction action against unauthorised hawkers." The contract period will run for three months, from December 2025 to February 2026. Fifteen personnel from organisations such as local NGOs, worker cooperatives, service cooperatives, unemployed services

cooperatives, and industrial service cooperatives registered with the charity commissioner, or the BMC itself, will be deployed across Andheri. Their role will be to act against unlicensed hawkers encroaching on footpaths, cooking food in the open, setting up makeshift stalls and blocking pedestrian movement.

To improve walkability, the civic body has also planned the remodelling and upgradation of existing footpaths to make them more pedestrian-friendly. Earlier this week, the ward office floated two tenders to appoint third-party agencies to inspect roads in the K West ward and recommend measures to improve their condition.

A senior civic official said, "This exercise is taken up ahead of planning infrastructure or road resurfacing works. It helps us understand the current condition and shortlist the works that need to be undertaken."

**'This exercise is taken up ahead of planning infrastructure or road resurfacing works. It helps us understand the current condition and shortlist the works that need to be undertaken'** A senior civic official

## Red alert in the kitchen

Tomato prices soar past ₹60 amid crop damage and short supply, forcing families and eateries to cut back

**AMARJEET SINGH**  
mailbag@mid-day.com

THE price of kitchen essentials, particularly tomatoes, has skyrocketed across Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Thane, triggering alarm among households and the hotel industry. Heavy unseasonal rain in key growing belts of Karnataka and interior Maharashtra has disrupted supplies to the Vashi APMC, pushing prices up at every level — from wholesale markets to local retail and app-based delivery platforms.

The wholesale benchmark price for local tomatoes has surged to ₹40 per kg at APMC, climbing to ₹55 to ₹60 per kg at retail outlets. Other staple vegetables have also seen steep

**Heavy unseasonal rain in key growing belts of Karnataka and interior Maharashtra has disrupted supplies to the Vashi APMC, pushing prices up at every level — from wholesale markets to local retail and app-based delivery platforms**

hikes, straining household budgets and forcing eateries across the region to cut back on ingredients.

### Market voices

Sanjay Karande, a wholesale trader at APMC, said, "Truck arrivals are unpredictable. Prices are high, and we cannot stock much due to the risk of spoilage. Customers are buying less."

Ulwe retailer and eatery owner Chandradev Gupta said, "Demand is high but supply is low."

He added that his eatery has been forced to cut back: "We are using one tomato instead of two and half a bunch of coriander instead of a full one to control costs."

Umesh Ghorpade of APMC said unseasonal weather has hit both supply and quality. "The tomato crop in Nashik is damaged, so supplies are coming from Karnataka, increasing transportation costs."

### Household struggles

Residents across Navi Mumbai say they are feeling the pinch every day.

Panvel resident Neha Me-



Residents across Mumbai and Navi Mumbai say they are feeling the pinch every day. PIC/AMARJEET SINGH

**₹50-₹60**  
Tomatoes' price per kg at retail outlets

hta said, "I now buy only 500 grams of tomatoes and use tamarind paste for tanginess. My monthly bill has gone up 40 per cent."

Kharghar resident Priyanka Pandey said, "We have stopped buying expensive vegetables

like green peas. We stick to leafy greens."

Ulwe resident Rajesh Verma said, "Prices are changing almost daily. We have cut down on eating out to balance our budget."

Koparkhairane resident Aparna Deshmukh said, "App prices are high, but sometimes home delivery is worth it when you cannot carry heavy bags."

Retailers warn that if weather conditions remain unstable, tomato prices may cross ₹60 per kg in the coming week.

### CURRENT PRICE COMPARISON

	APMC wholesale	Local retail	App delivery
Tomato	₹40	₹55-60	₹43-51
Cauliflower	₹60	₹80	₹64-80
Green peas (Golden mutter)	₹120-125	₹160	Higher, varies
Ivy gourd (Tondli)	₹70	₹90-100	₹85-100
Cluster beans (Gawar)	₹120	₹150	₹140-150

App prices are calculated by converting 250 g and 500 g pack rates to 1 kg equivalents and may include promotional discounts.

### MONTH-ON-MONTH SURGE

Retail prices have jumped sharply in four weeks

TOMATO: ₹25-30 to ₹55-60	(67-100% rise)
CAULIFLOWER: ₹50 to ₹80	(60% rise)
GREEN PEAS: ₹80-100 to ₹160	(60-100% rise)
CLUSTER BEANS: ₹100-110 to ₹150	(36-50% rise)

# daily dossier



@sidin: Curacao has qualified for the FIFA World Cup. HCL has more employees than Curacao has people.

## ART CORNER

### Aamir Khan't say no to art

BOLLYWOOD actor **Aamir Khan** reminisced about his 2007 hit, *Taare Zameen Par*, at a surprise visit to the Nehru Centre Art Gallery in Worli on Tuesday. Walking into the ongoing watercolour exhibition, *Emergence*, reminded Khan of Act Four of the film, where he paints a striking



watercolour portrait. "Khan was not part of the guest list for the inaugural day. When he walked in, we weren't sure what to expect. Through our interactions, it was clear that Khan knew an artist's mind too well. He praised the artists for the unshakable focus that goes behind every canvas. The actor looked back fondly upon working with veteran painter **Samir Mondal**, who had painted multiple canvases for *Taare Zameen Par*," said pastel artist **Parag Borse**, who shared the stage with Khan.

The Centre is currently exhibiting the group show of 28 artists from renowned watercolour artist Vikrant Shitole's ChitraSutra Art Academy. Khan's ex-wife, **Reena Dutta**, we learnt, is an alumna of the academy. The actor wasn't there for a fleeting guest appearance, Borse revealed to us. "He spent his time understanding each of the works.



(Above) Aamir Khan gets a walkthrough of the exhibition from Vikrant Shitole; (left) Khan addresses visitors at the gallery. **PICS COURTESY/PARAG BORSE**

He's an excellent listener as well. When I spoke about the growing participation of women in fine arts, he listened intently," Borse added. Here's to hoping more superstars from tinsel town follow suit and turn patrons of the fine arts.

### All in the details



Watercolour miniatures by (top) Maïté Delteil and (above) Sakti Burman. **PIC COURTESY/ART MUSINGS**

CAN art still be appreciated if done on an inch-long piece of paper? It's possible. In a *Grain of Sand*, featuring miniature paintings on paper by artists **Maïté Delteil** (right, above) and **Sakti Burman** (right, below), on display at Art Musings in Colaba, is proof of that.

"Earlier last year, I saw Sakti da and Maïté painting on small canvases in their studio in Greater Kailash, New Delhi. It was beautiful. What sets them apart is that the canvas ranges from 1x1 to 7x7 inches, not a typical fullscale painting. The works are water-coloured, and there are about 50 compositions having four to eight works each, paying exquisite attention to detail," said **Sangeeta Raghavan**, director of Art Musings.



### Training the naturalists

THE Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) will launch the 5th edition of its leadership training workshops for aspiring naturalists on December 6. The programme is designed for those who want to move beyond casual interest and fully immerse themselves in biodiversity and nature study.

The BNHS conducts these workshops twice a year — first in June and July, and the second, in December. The upcoming sessions will mark its fifth edition. "The sessions cater to people seeking structured, detailed learning in a field where there isn't a lot of information available," said naturalist **Shardul Bajjar**.

He reminds us that being a naturalist means embracing the outdoors in its raw form. "Nature study isn't merely about biodiversity, but also stones, mountainous terrain, the sea and a culmination of these elements. And as a trainee you cannot have a luxurious setting — you must be ready to work in dirty surroundings, not-so-ideal weather, and around mosquitoes to be a true naturalist." Those keen to join to join can contact 9821120494.



A participant learns about wildlife habitat. **PIC COURTESY/BNHS**



### CROSS CULTURE

A woman and a child cross a street in the foreground of a mural depicting Maharashtra's cultural traditions at Dahisar East. **PIC/NIMESH DAVE**

### More open hours for our parks

IT is no wonder that Mumbaikars crave the feeling of grass beneath their feet. In its October 2 edition, **mid-day** carried a report on residents protesting the two-hour daily closure of the August Kranti Park Maidan. This problem is not limited to one park, it seems. "In a city such as Mumbai, you cannot keep open spaces shut," shares Anca Abraham (right), founder, Love Your Parks.

A signatory campaign by her initiative along with Bombay Greenway and Nagar seeks to right

this error. Not only are the timings irregular, Abraham shared that many parks are made inaccessible through rules. "The campaign is an effort to raise awareness. We hope to reach out to the BMC in the coming week for a discussion. We are asking that all parks be open from 5 am to 11 pm. Plus, discuss other issues," she concluded. Mumbaikars looking to sign up, can head to @LYPMumbai for details.



The August Kranti Maidan is one of the many public parks and gardens that remain shut from 1 pm to 3 pm. **FILE PIC/KIRTI SURVE PARADE**

# Completely incomplete bridges!

Seven road overbridges hang uselessly; commuters cope with chaos daily as local authorities fail to respond

**RAJENDRA B AKLEKAR**  
rajendra.aklekar@mid-day.com

THE local train is packed, yet the compartment is silent. The silence comes from the frustration and anger of commuters as the train halts in the middle of nowhere, just short of Diva station. This has become a daily ritual.

“What is the use of rushing to catch the train on time when it ends up waiting here every day?” asks office-goer Mandar Abhyankar, visibly fed up.

Motorist Diwakar Dhond, a resident of Maruti Mandir Road in Diva West, faces the same misery on the road. He spends around 30 minutes crawling across a 200-metre stretch near the level crossing to reach the Diva-Shil Road and then NH-48. “All that time is just waiting in long queues to cross the railway lines,” he says.

Everyone is angry. Motorists wait for trains to pass; trains wait for motorists to clear the crossing. This happens more than 40 times a day, delaying suburban and national train traffic.

The reason behind this daily mess is a complete lack of planning and coordination between agencies. The road overbridge (ROB) at Diva, meant to eliminate the level crossing, is structurally ready across the railway tracks, but without land for its approaches on either side, the multi-crore project stands useless. And this is not the only such case.

Central Railway recently



The hanging Diva road overbridge: Unfinished approach work at the Vidyavihar ROB, one of seven bridges stranded due to delays. PICS/BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



raised a red flag over seven road overbridges across the Mumbai division where the railway portion is complete, but the structure is literally hanging — unused — because local bodies have failed to build the connecting approaches.

**40**  
No. of times trains wait for motorists to pass, and vice versa, at Diva

According to internal records, these stranded bridges across the CSMT-Kalyan main line, Kalyan-Karjat and Karjat-Lonavla belts, and Panvel-Roha stretch remain incomplete due to land acquisition disputes, court cases, stalled tenders and municipal delays.

Despite the Railways completing their sections through costly mega blocks, the bridges cannot be opened to the public, defeating their very purpose.

Officials say the approach work in many locations has not even begun, while in others, half-built ramps stand abandoned due to disputes with landowners or contractors.

A Central Railway spokesperson said the situation is frustrating. “We finished our part years ago. Without approaches, these bridges are useless. Public money is locked up, and the safety benefits of eliminating level crossings are not realised.”

The delays have also negated the operational benefits — many of these ROB were meant to replace level crossings and ease congestion. For instance, the Diva level crossing opens around 145 times a day, delaying every train passing through the stretch.

## A familiar story

“This is not the first time civic bodies have delayed their part,” an official said. “The Railways finish their portion under tight deadlines while municipal bodies struggle with land acquisition, utility shifting, tender delays or funding issues. In the meantime, crores worth

of steel and concrete hang mid-air. Vidyavihar and Diva are prime examples.”

## Public money locked up

The incomplete ROB defeat their purpose of improving safety and reducing congestion.

## What next?

Railway authorities have issued reminders to agencies seeking urgent action. But with several cases tied up in litigation and land disputes, there is no timeline for when these bridges will open.

## Politics at play?

Sources said the foundation of the Diva bridge was laid by Aaditya Thackeray and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, possibly contributing to political friction.

## VOICES

**RATNAKAR GAIKWAD,**  
Commuter

“What’s the point of building half a bridge? We have been waiting for years.”

**SUBAN KHAN,**

Member of commuter association

“These ROB are just monuments in the sky. Until approaches are built, they’re useless.”

**SUBHASH GUPTA,**

President of Mumbai Yatri Sangh

“Public money is literally hanging in mid-air. Authorities must coordinate before planning.”

## SEVEN ‘HANGING’ OVERBRIDGES

- Diva station, Diva-Mumbra section
- Vidyavihar, CSMT-Kalyan section
- Ulhasnagar-Ambernath, Kalyan-Karjat section
- Bhiwandi, Dombivli-Vasai section
- Roha-Nidi, Panvel-Roha section
- Lonavala-Malavali, Lonavala-Pune section
- Nilje-Taloja Panchand, Dombivli-Panvel section

**‘This is not the first time civic bodies have delayed their part. The Railways finish their portion under tight deadlines while municipal bodies struggle with land acquisition, utility shifting, tender delays or funding issues. In the meantime, crores worth of steel and concrete hang mid-air. Vidyavihar and Diva are prime examples’** An official said



The railway section of the Diva ROB, fully completed, awaits connecting ramps from civic authorities



**RITIKA GONDHALEKAR  
AND ADITI ALURKAR**  
mailbag@mid-ds.com

MAHARASHTRA Minister for School Education, Dada Bhuse, on Tuesday directed officials to conduct a detailed enquiry into the sudden closure of New Mahim School, following persistent demands from parents and activists for transparency over the building's safety status. The minister assured that a structural audit will be completed within eight days, after which a clear decision on the resumption of classes will be taken.

While the process of this new inspection is underway, the school was recently shut after committees inspecting the building reportedly flagged structural concerns. However, parents and community members have repeatedly

# New Mahim School bldg to be audited again

Education minister orders detailed probe, assures completion in eight days

questioned the lack of clarity surrounding these reports, urging the BMC and school infrastructure cell to publicly share the findings and justify the closure. With hundreds of students currently displaced and attending classes in temporary arrangements, the demand for transparency has only intensified.

Responding to the concerns, Bhuse said, "The issue brought to my attention will definitely be looked into. We will conduct a thorough enquiry and ensure that all inspection and audit findings are made available. If the building is found fit for use, with only minor repairs required, the classes will resume there immediately." He added that officials have been instructed to prioritise the matter and avoid unnecessary delays that may affect students' education.

The minister emphasised that the structural safety of the building will remain the decisive factor. "In the coming week, we will undertake a detailed structural audit of the school. If the building turns out to be safe, we will resume schooling promptly," he said.

## Parents react

Parents, who have been protesting the closure, welcomed the minister's statement but reiterated the need for timely action. Many noted that the relocation of classes has been inconvenient for students, especially those in primary grades, and has disrupted their academic routine.

"School repair is a must. But



I am in the fifth month of pregnancy, and my older children haven't been going to school for the past week as I have to look after my health. My other children are aged 11 and six.

My husband who works in the banner printing business leaves home at 10 am and returns at 11 pm. We miss having our Mahim school; dropping the children off at Kapad Bazar

① The BMC said that even a third-party audit classified the school building as a dangerous structure

② A classroom with ceiling plaster breaking off. PICS/RITIKA GONDHALEKAR/ADITI ALURKAR

Public School is difficult," said Reshma Nadeem Shaikh from Dharavi.

Clarifying the issue formerly, BMC officials had released a statement saying that the New Mahim School land is to be utilised for schooling purposes only and that even after a third-party audit, the school still remains classified as a dangerous structure. Citizens, however, continue to demand

## ACTIVISTS SPEAK

**PRANALI RAUT,**  
AAP member and activist

'Creating committees simply lengthens the process of arriving at the decision. We hope that the civic-body would make the documents of their audit publicly available so the right decision can be taken for the students. Meanwhile, we are willing to protest till we get the report.'

The parents who once sent their children to the New Mahim School are now inconvenienced because they cannot commute to the new school location, since they are daily wage workers'

## Locals seek explanation for Mahim school closure



## New Mahim School will come up on same land: BMC

School building was classified as 'highly dangerous' structure following an audit earlier; activists fear civic school land will be turned into commercial complexes

ADITI ALURKAR  
aditi.alurkar@mid-day.com

THE Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has said that the New Mahim Municipal Corporation School in the 'G' North Ward, which was issued a CI certificate, will be reconstructed on the same plot by the civic body itself. The statement comes following repeated protests from political activists and citizens seeking an explanation for the closure of the school. As per the civic body, BMC's School Infrastructural Cell



Mid-day reports to November 10 and 13

that the report be released in the public domain.

Sonal Dinesh Dabhade, who resides in Matunga Labour Camp, used to send her three children to the New Mahim School. "Now I have to walk all three of them to a school in Sion. I work as a house help, and it cuts into my working hours. We hope to get our old school back soon," she said.

**NOV 18**

Day assurance was given

**'If the building is found fit for use, with only minor repairs required, the classes will resume there immediately'**

Dada Bhuse, minister for school education

# Blackmailed over morphed images, 17-yr-old ends life

Teenager had gone missing earlier in August after which a police complaint was filed; she was traced to Chennai and brought back



REPRESENTATION/FILE PIC

**SHIRISH VAKTANIA**  
shirish.vaktania@mid-day.com

A 17-YEAR-old girl from Goregaon West allegedly died by suicide after facing harassment and blackmail by a man. According to the police, the accused demanded money from the victim and threatened to make her "morphed photographs" viral if she did not pay him.

The incident took place on Saturday (November 15) evening. Police have identified the accused as Sanjay Raj, also a Goregaon resident. Goregaon police said they have booked the accused based on the complaint filed by the victim's father.

According to the police, the girl had earlier gone missing

on August 19, following which a complaint was registered and the girl was traced to Chennai and brought back. However, since her return, according to the family of the victim, she was constantly in contact with a man — Sanjay Raj.

"A few days ago, the girl's father noticed that the money he

**'A few days ago, the girl's father noticed that the money he kept in his clothes went missing several times, and he confronted her'**

A police officer

kept in his clothes went missing several times, and he confronted her. The victim confided that Sanjay Raj had been demanding money from her and threatening to make her morphed photographs viral," said a police officer. Following this, the victim's father approached the Goregaon police to file a complaint against Sanjay Raj and requested the police to issue him a strict warning. On November 15, he also registered an NC against the accused for issuing threats to his daughter.

Earlier, the police had registered an Accidental Death Report, but later an FIR (abetment of suicide) against the accused was filed, said police, adding that the probe is underway.

## SUICIDE HELPLINES

**ASARA (24x7)**

**9820466726**

Suicide Prevention and Counselling NGO

**FINDHELPLINE.COM**

(Available from Monday to Saturday: 10.00 am to 8.00 pm)

**9152987821**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEUROSCIENCES**

**8046110007**

Languages: English, Hindi and Marathi

# Tenants of 935 cessed buildings whose redvpt was stayed are hopeful

Optimism abounds after hearings with MHADA officials; soon, report to be submitted to HC

RITIKA GONDHALEKAR  
ritika.gondhalekar@mid-day.com

IMPLEMENTING a Bombay High Court order staying the issuance of 79A and B notices served to the owners of several buildings, the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) office, between November 7 and 20, heard the submissions of landlords and tenants whose redevelopment is being stalled because of the court's directions.

## The background

Hearing a matter where some tenants had filed a complaint, stating that the notices given during the monsoon inspections to identify dilapidated buildings were not as per rules and were, in some cases, given by engineers who did not even belong to the respective ward, the court had then put a blanket stay on all notices served. "This stay was brought in without considering if any of these landlords and tenants were willing to go ahead with the redevelopment or making it a fair deal for us," said Dinesh Loke, a resident of Kondaji Chawl, project number one, which includes building no. 1, 2, 3, and 5. His hearing was held on November 17.

The HC had thus directed that meetings be conducted and a report be submitted. The hearings of landlords and tenants of the 935 cessed buildings concluded on Thursday at the MHADA office in Bandra.

## The hearings

The landlords of 500-odd buildings out of the 935 buildings — the redevelopment of which had been stayed by the court in July,

**'While the committee is rightly advising tenants of dangerous buildings to vacate and shift to MHADA's alternate accommodation, the harsh reality is that MHADA simply does not have enough transit homes to house thousands of affected families'** Jitendra Ghadge, resident, Parekh Building



Kubal Niwas, a dilapidated house in Dadar West, which houses two families. FILE PIC/SAYYED SAMEER ABEDI



which had stated that MHADA's executive engineers had issued notices declaring the buildings as dilapidated and dangerous for habitation without jurisdiction as they had vested interests in the properties — were heard between November 7 and 12. Further, the tenants of the same buildings were called for hearings between November 14 and 20.

"We were asked for details such as whether our respective buildings had the required consent from the tenants, if our landlord had given consent for redevelopment and if we had zeroed down on any developer. Those tenants who had difficulties expressed their concerns while the rest of us stated that we had everyone's consent, including our landlords," said Loke.

Further, Jitendra Ghadge, a resident of Parekh Building, one of 46 buildings, the notices of which were revoked after HC's stay order, who had his hearing on November 14, told mid-day,

mid-day's May 23, June 6, and July 30 reports

"While the committee is rightly advising tenants of dangerous buildings to vacate and shift to MHADA's alternate accommodation, the harsh reality is that MHADA simply does not have enough transit homes to house thousands of affected families. In such a situation, the most practical and humane solution is to allow tenants to undertake redevelopment under Section 79B when landlords refuse to cooperate — before the building collapses and lives are needlessly lost."

Meanwhile, a report containing the statements of landlords and tenants will be submitted to the high court in the coming week. "We just hope that at least, we who have already given consent for redeveloping our buildings and also have landlords' support for the same, get justice, and our redevelopment begins soon," said Loke.

Nov 7

Day hearings with landlords of 500-odd of 935 cessed buildings began

Handloom & Handicraft Exhibition Cum Sale

## Swadeshi Art & Craft

SILK & COTTON EXPO

**POWAI VENUE**  
**HIRANANDANI BUS DEPOT GROUND**  
Opp. Jalvayu Vihar, Near Hiranandani Garden, Powai, Mumbai

**07<sup>th</sup> Nov to 07<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025**  
TIME - 11.00 AM TO 9.00 PM

Scan for Location

**BORIVALI VENUE**  
**KORAKENDRA GROUND NO.4**  
Opp. Ground No. 2, R. M. Bhattad Road, Borivali (W) Mumbai

**07<sup>th</sup> Nov to 07<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025**  
TIME - 11.00 AM TO 9.00 PM

Big Branded Sale  
Top brand collection clearance sale  
Jeans, T-shirts, Shirts, Track Pants, Trousers available

**BOOK FAIR**  
BOOKS BUY KILO

**Sale UPTO 40% DISCOUNT**

Saree | Dress Material | Fabrics | Stoles | Dupattas | Home Linen  
An Exhibition & Sale of Ethnic, Exotic Designer Silk & Cotton Products

**ENTRY & PARKING FREE** WE ACCEPT ALL CREDIT CARDS | **Call - 9320039767**

A BRAND OF RAJNISH WELLNESS LIMITED

Get MORE Energy, Stamina & Happiness

**Play Win Oil**  
Only for Men

**Play Win Capsule**

**Play Win Capsule + Oil**

Increase in your STAMINA & be active and charming in life with **PLAY WIN CAPSULES**. In just 21 days course, happiness and satisfaction becomes a habit & eventually leads to a successful and happy life. Also use **PLAY WIN OIL** with the course for weak nerves to have rock like hardness & sensation on essential parts of the body.

**For Better Result also use Play Win Oil.**

Take **PLAY WIN CAPSULES** twice a day 1 in the morning 1 at night for 21 days

- 100% Ayurvedic
- 100% Vegetarian

- No Side effects
- 17 Precious Herbs

Now Available for Females  
**Play Win-F**  
Capsule only for females

Available In All Medical/Ayurvedic Stores.

# All noise, no lawsuit yet

Opposition's voter list charge loses steam as experts say matter is too weak to hold up in court

**SANJEEV SHIVADEKAR**  
sanjeev.shivadekar@mid-day.com

TWENTY days after Opposition leader Uddhav Thackeray and other parties announced on November 1 that they would move court over alleged irregularities in the voter lists, there has been no progress.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi, along with Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, accused the Election Commission of ignoring their demand to postpone local body elections until widespread errors — such as missing and duplicate names, incorrect age or gender entries and faulty addresses — were corrected.

To protest, the entire Opposition held a rally in Mumbai on November 1. But despite strong speeches and promises of court action, no petition has been filed so far.

When asked why the case has not been filed, a senior Opposition leader said on condition of anonymity, "When we sought legal advice, experts

told us the case is weak and unlikely to hold up in court."

According to the leader, lawyers warned that if the petition claims such irregularities existed during the 2024 Assembly elections, the court will first ask how many official objections were filed at that time. As per procedure, political parties are required to raise objections during or immediately after elections when the Election Commission opens the correction window.

During last year's Lok Sabha elections, the MVA won 31 of Maharashtra's 48 seats. But the picture changed drastically in the Assembly polls six months later, when the

**'When we sought legal advice, experts told us the case is weak and unlikely to hold up in court'**

A senior Opposition leader

**NOV 1**  
Day rally was held



The entire Opposition held a rally in Mumbai on November 1 to protest against the irregularities in the voters' list. PIC/ASHISH RAJE

Mahayuti alliance won 232 of the 288 constituencies.

Almost a year has passed since the state elections, and the Opposition had not raised major concerns until recently. The issue gained momentum after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi spoke about alleged "vote chori," prompting leaders from the Sena (UBT) and the MNS to highlight similar claims.

When the controversy over faulty voter lists first surfaced, the MVA and MNS accused the ruling alliance of benefiting from the errors. Chief

**According to the leader, lawyers warned that if the petition claims such irregularities existed during the 2024 Assembly elections, the court will first ask how many official objections were filed at that time. As per procedure, political parties are required to raise objections during or immediately after elections when the Election Commission opens the correction window**

Minister Devendra Fadnavis questioned the timing and said the Opposition should show evidence of objections filed within the required deadlines. "Show me where the Opposition raised objections on time. Now that they are

seeing defeat, they are trying to create a narrative and find an excuse," Fadnavis had said during Diwali interactions with reporters, including mid-day. He had also dared the Opposition to take the matter to court.

Since then, the Opposition, which was vocal about alleged anomalies in the voter lists, has gone largely silent. With no court case filed so far, questions are now being raised about the seriousness of their claims.

A Sena (UBT) leader, however, said the legal option has not been completely ruled out. "Experts have given their views. But if all Opposition parties agree to proceed as announced during the protest rally, we might still go ahead with a legal battle," the leader said.

## ₹166cr Input Tax Credit racket busted

Officials say 40 bogus firms running from single office to control 'paper-only' network

**ANISH PATIL**  
anish.patil@mid-day.com

THE Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) uncovered a ₹166.37-crore fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) racket being operated through more than 40 bogus entities being run from one office in Ghatkopar West.

Officials said that what appeared to be a regular commercial establishment on the outside was functioning as the nerve centre of a massive paper-only supply chain where goods "existed only on documents", while tax credits worth

**Investigators say the racket was strategically structured into Level A, B, C and D entities — a layering technique designed to obscure the fraudulent ITC trail and make illegitimate credit trail difficult to trace**

crores were allegedly circulated among shell firms.

The DGGI, Mumbai Zonal Unit, conducted the raid on November 18, during which officers unearthed a large cache of materials used for fabricating transactions. These included entity stamps, bank passbooks, cheque books, debit cards, multiple mobile phones, numerous SIM cards, laptops, desktop computers, and several digital storage devices. Officials said these items were instrumental in creating multiple layers of fraudulent paperwork required to maintain the façade of legitimate trade.

Following the raid, officers arrested Rajendra Bansilal Maurya, 30, on Wednesday (November 19) under Section 69(1) (committing specific, serious tax offences) of the CGST Act. Investigators said Maurya allegedly created dozens of falsified GST registrations from the Ghatkopar office, generated bogus pur-



The arrested accused has admitted that he personally controlled the fake entities and issued invoices. REPRESENTATION PIC/ISTOCK

chase and sale invoices, issued e-way bills and e-invoices, and rotated ineligible ITC across a network of shell companies, ensuring the financial trail appeared authentic on paper.

During interrogation, Maurya allegedly admitted that he personally controlled

around 40 fake entities and issued invoices based solely on instructions received from clients over WhatsApp. He allegedly confessed that he did not verify whether any goods were actually being traded and accepted that "the goods moved only on paper." Several of the GST registrations

used in the racket were later cancelled after being found to be fraudulent.

Officials also revealed that Maurya relied heavily on dummy mobile numbers, altered contact details, and multiple SIM cards to receive OTPs, file GST returns and operate the bogus firms without detection.

According to investigators, the racket was strategically structured into Level A, B, C and D entities — a layering technique designed to obscure the fraudulent ITC trail and make the movement of illegitimate credit difficult to trace.

As the probe progressed, the DGGI identified several beneficiary firms that had allegedly availed sizeable ineligible ITC generated through the bogus network. These included Auto-Kraft Moto Care Pvt Ltd (₹18.48 crore), Greentex International Pvt Ltd (₹16.5 crore), Royal Enterprises (₹7.62 crore), DS Diam (₹9.81 crore), Siddharth Enterprise

(₹22 crore), and Mercy Enterprises (₹21.75 crore). With the fake ITC already quantified at ₹166.37 crore, officials believe the figure is likely to increase significantly as more entities linked to Maurya come under scrutiny.

Investigators described the Ghatkopar office as a "central operations desk" where all registrations, filings and digital communications converged.

"Every layer of the racket was controlled from that single office," an officer familiar with the probe said, adding that the operation was designed to mimic the supply patterns of real businesses, despite involving no physical goods.

The DGGI is now examining digital devices seized from the premises to trace the wider network, including clients who may have knowingly availed fraudulent credit. Officials said more arrests are likely, as the investigation widens across multiple states.

**NOV 18**  
Day search was conducted at Ghatkopar West office



# National Economic Growth Summit and Awards 2025

## Highlights India's Innovation, Skilling, and Future of Work

2nd Edition The National Economic Growth Summit and Awards 2025 (NEGS) hosted at Hotel Orchid Mumbai, emerged as a landmark event advancing India's economic vision through knowledge sharing, innovation, and recognition of exceptional achievement.

The (NEGS) summit was meticulously planned and brought to fruition through the dedicated efforts of the 'Talent Value' team, led by Mr. Mitesh Jobanputra Director of Talent Value, who managed everything from selecting and evaluating the awardees to organizing the panelists and ensuring the success of the event.

In the keynote addressed by Mr. Vipul Dave CEO Talent Value celebrated the first anniversary of Talent Value and emphasized the mission to ignite, nurture, and recognize young entrepreneurial ideas as part of



India's growth journey.

Mr. Vipul Dave underscored India's pivotal role in shaping the "Future of Work," advocating for a blend of technical skills, artificial intelligence, and essential soft skills to nurture the workforce of tomorrow.

A thought-provoking panel discussion, 'Grassroots to Growth,' included notable leaders: Mr. Sunil Modi (Sunil Modi & Company), Prabhat Saxena (Regal Rexnord), Dhavit Kothari (SBI Pension Fund), Mrunal Nagrecha (Xanthus Innovations), and Mr. Ruben Chheda (Maxx-Groww Realty Advisors). The panel spotlighted the urgent need for reskilling in light of

rapid advances in AI, suggesting that Business Leaders and HR must proactively drive upskilling strategies as new opportunities and roles arise.

Another significant panel, "Women at the Helm," focused on unlocking economic potential through inclusive leadership. Moderated by Ms. Mamta Dhingra, the discussion featured Ms. Jinita Desai (Global Talent Company), Ms. Yenki Asrani (Inside Out), Dr. Vandana Shah (Entrepreneur), and Ms. Avanti Poreddi (Corporate Lawyer). The panelists agreed that women's innate leadership qualities, strong communication skills, and ongoing self-upgradation fuel innovation and



economic growth. The session recognized PM Modi's powerful vision for India and a strong support for women. After 2014 a lot has changed in the country and women are emerging contributing to the economic growth of India and the Government has a lot of schemes and incentives for Women.

A dedicated panel of "NGO's" was hosted by Onelife Charitable Trust and Mr. Niraj Newatia (Shree Narayabi Gosala and Charitable Trust) for Social Humanitarian and Environmental cause often filling gaps where Government services are lacking.

Their activities aim to pro-

vide welfare, provide aid, protect the environment and empower communities.

A dedicated panel on "Cyber-Crime prevention", was hosted by Mr. Akshat Khetan and Ms. Neeti Goel (Co-founders WHT Now), enlightened the audience on the cyber-crimes happening today and how to prevent them.

The summit also featured a session by Ms. Alina Alam, Founder-CEO of "Mitti Café" world's largest chain of cafes which is completely managed by persons with disabilities.

Award winners and attendees wholeheartedly acknowledged the summit's crucial role in fostering innovation, celebrating talent, and steer-

ing strategies essential for India's future progress.

Thank you for being a valued customer to us, we truly appreciate your trust and association.

### Some of Our Valued Customers:

Lateral Sutra, Ravi Industries, Aryaman Financial Services Ltd, Filmstoc & Mijwan Welfare Society, Coca-Cola, Adventa Enterprises, MOIL, Regal Rexnord, General Central Insurance, Dextra India Pvt. Ltd, The New India Assurance Co. Ltd, BEML, Ergode, SBI Pension Funds Pvt. Ltd, Sheopals Pvt. Ltd, Synergycom, Cheshire Home India (Delhi Unit) & many mores...



# City's biggest indoor pool up and swimming

Kamgar Stadium's facility smashes stereotypes; aims to stay true to core with a recognition of a new demographic; Parel pool was hampered by COVID

HEMAL ASHAR  
hemal@mid-day.com

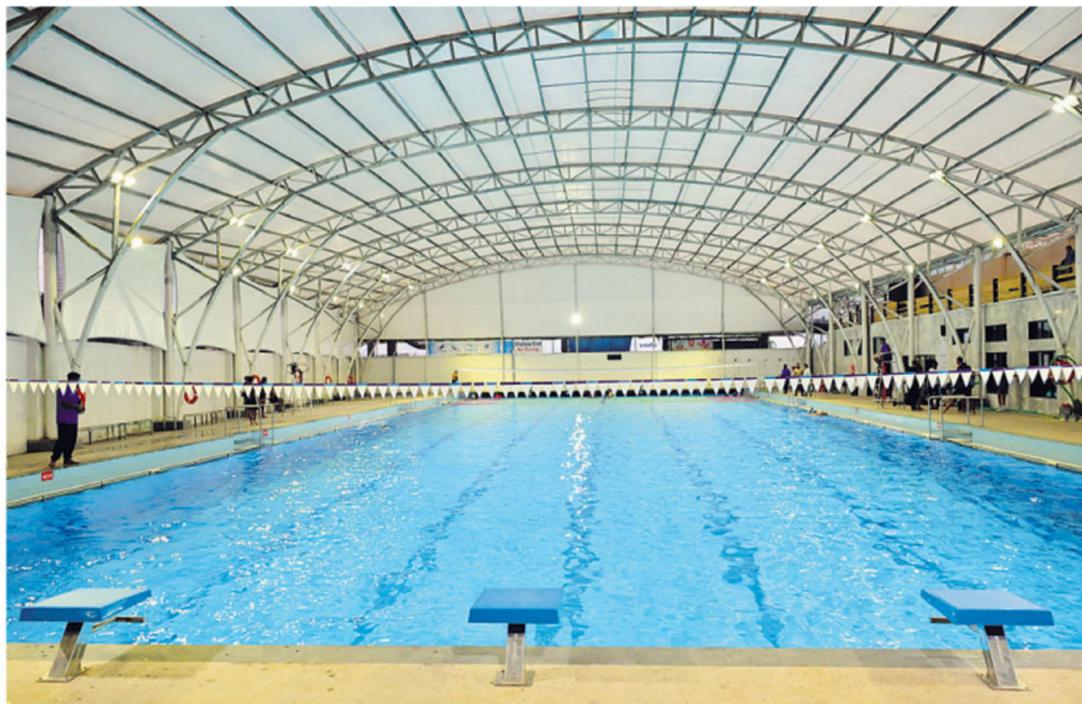
MUMBAI'S largest indoor swimming pool — measuring 50m in length and 18.5m in breadth — at the Maharashtra Kamgar Krida Bhavan complex in Parel was filling up with both recreational and competitive swimmers when mid-day visited the recently reopened facility on a weekday evening.

With a deep end plunging 12 feet and a shallow end measuring three feet, the pool water gleamed topaz blue.

Recreational swimmers, many using flotation devices, were being coached in the shallower end while their competitive counterparts entered soon after.

## Coach cool

Olympian swimmer-turned-coach Virdhawal Khade was prepping students. The athlete won a bronze medal in the 50m butterfly at the 2010 Asian Games and is an Arjuna Award recipient. He said, pointing to the sparkling facility, "The pool was reopened to the public on November 1. It is not Olympic-sized, strictly speaking, as, for an Olympic pool, the length is 50m, which this pool is. However, the width is 25m, we have 18.5m here, a 6.5-m difference," smiled Khade, who is head coach of the eponymous Khade Aquatics. "It is Mumbai's biggest indoor pool, though, as most of our indoor



The roof above is in keeping with the aesthetics of the swimming pool complex design. PICS/SHADAB KHAN

pools are 25m in length."

## Awake now

The pool within the complex has come to life after a few years. It had shuttered during the COVID pandemic, and later remained closed after cases declined because of renovation. The city's largest indoor pool also has a roof. This closes it off from several high-rise buildings that have recently sprouted in the area, part of the transformation of a space which was once the beating heart of Mumbai's mill landscape. "The roof gives privacy

for the swimmers, especially the women," said Khade, along with Ahmed Ansari, founder of Sportiqo Swim School, who trains recreational swimmers and holds learn to swim classes at the pool.

## Upgrade work

There is a significant number of recreational/fitness swimmers. "Some signed up recently, after learning about our spruced-up pool and training," said Ansari. The pool is part of the larger upgradation of the entire Kamgar complex. "This is one of the few public pools that are accessible because of its location. It is close to

a number of public transport hubs, and the fees are reasonable. Club memberships have gone through the roof. India's swimming talent still comes from smaller spaces. When swimmers move to bigger cities like Mumbai, for instance, in training, pools like Kamgar prove affordable," said Khade.

The swimming coach, who is from Kolhapur, added, "Struggle comes naturally to swimmers from small-



**'Labourers still have to pay a very nominal fee to access these facilities. Our aim is to produce sports champions from this category. At the same time, we are also catering to another demographic'** Bhaskar Morade, labour welfare commissioner, Maharashtra Labour Welfare Board



Beginners at the shallow end of the Kamgar Krida Bhavan pool in Parel

er places. Often, their first swimming pool is a lake or a pond near their home. Then, of course, they need to graduate to swimming pools and specialised coaching. Moving to cities like Mumbai to train means accommodation is extremely challenging. An accessible pool, at least, takes one thing off one's mind."

## Mill will

Though Parel was still a 'mill address' years ago and not a swank, new-age commercial-residential location with glass-fronted buildings, most with vertigo-inducing monthly rents, the accent is on 'Kamgar' or labour, said Labour Welfare Commissioner of the Maharashtra Labour Welfare Board (MLWB) Bhaskar Maruti Morade.

"Labourers still have to pay a very nominal fee to access these facilities. Our aim is to produce sports champions from this category. At the same time, we are also catering to another demographic," explained the commissioner, along with MLWB Board Public Relations Officer (PRO) Manoj R Bagale. The duo added, "Our swimming facilities, for instance, are now floodlit as corporates who become members may find it convenient to come in here after of-

## What's new at Kamgar?

- Archery range
- Rifle range
- Indoor swimming pool
- Library
- Art gallery
- Kickboxing space

For swimming pool membership details, call:

**9892124536**  
**9892127669**

face hours to swim. We are in the process of upgrading every facet of the Bhavan. Its core remains constant — a sporty and cultural hub for workers and the larger public. We have a library and an art gallery, the latter is also in the process of a facelift. The label 'Kamgar' is riddled with stereotypes, with many believing that amenities for workers will be substandard. Funds are not a huge problem. We are working towards smashing stereotypes about sub-standard Kamgar, with upgradation in general standards across the complex."

This Bhavan just got an archery facility and a shooting range. Work is on for a cafeteria in the building complex. The swimming pool has seen approximately 200 enrolments since it reopened this month, with flashy changing rooms also indicative of the facelift.

# Four friends among six dead as Thar plunges into gorge



Steep slopes, dense forest and loose rocks have made the rescue operation difficult. PIC/BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CCTV footage, tower data help cops track group's last route before SUV was found in Tamhini ghat

ARCHANA DAHIWAL  
mailbag@mid-day.com

**PUNE:** A Konkan trip turned tragic after a Thar SUV carrying six Pune youth plunged nearly 500 ft into a gorge on the Tamhini Ghat in Raigad, killing four. The crash went unnoticed for four days until parents filed missing-person complaints when the group's phones stayed unreachable.

Uttamnagar police believe the accident occurred around midnight on November 17, but remained undetected due

to the isolated location of the spot and the lack of traffic at that hour.

The youth have been identified as Shahaji Chavan, 22; Punit Sudharak Shetty, 20; Sahil Sadhu Bote, 24; Shri Mahadev Koli, 18; Omkar Sunil Koli, 18; and Shiva Arun Mane, 19. Police used mobile tower data and CCTV footage to trace their route. On Thursday, a drone team spotted the SUV and the bodies of

four occupants deep inside the valley near a dangerous curve on the ghat. The police are yet to identify them. The search for the remaining two is on.

The rescue and recovery effort involves Mangaon police, Raigad district disaster management, the Mulshi Taluka Disaster Management Committee and local villagers. Steep slopes, dense forest and loose rocks have made the

operation difficult.

Preliminary inquiry suggests the driver may have lost control at a sharp bend near Kondhar village while descending. Though metal railings are installed at several points, they offer limited protection on sharper curves. The stretch is known for its blind turns, narrow roads, and poor nighttime visibility.

Local activists have renewed demands for stronger barriers, better speed-control measures, and stricter enforcement to prevent further tragedies.

**NOV17**

Day when the accident is believed to have occurred

**BROWSER**

**India to get Excalibur projectiles, Javelin missile system from US**



Javelin missile. PIC/X@NEWSIADN

**NEW YORK:** The US has approved the sale of Excalibur guided artillery projectiles, Javelin anti-tank missile system and related equipment worth nearly \$93 million to India, saying it will improve the country's capability to strengthen its defence and deter regional threats.

The proposed sale would be India's first major purchase of US defence equipment after President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent in August for the country's purchases of Russian oil.

**Four killed as house roof collapses in Noida**



Incident occurred on Wednesday. PIC/X@AMBUJ\_T\_LKO

**NOIDA:** At least four labourers were killed at an under-construction house in Greater Noida's Rabupura area, police said.

The incident occurred on Wednesday afternoon in Nagla Hukum Singh village, where workers were removing the shuttering of a lintel on the third floor of a house owned by one Mahavir Singh.

The roof suddenly gave way, burying a number of labourers under the debris.

**Over 80% disabled lack health insurance: Report**

**NEW DELHI:** More than 80 per cent of Indians with disabilities remain uninsured, and over half of those who apply are often rejected without explanation despite legal safeguards meant to ensure equal access to health coverage, a report from the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) has found.

According to the findings, 80 per cent of respondents had no health insurance, while 53 per cent applications were rejected.

Agencies

# Nitish Kumar is Bihar CM for the 10th time

Besides Nitish, 26 MLAs — 14 from the BJP, eight from the JD(U), two from LJP(RV), and one each from HAM and RLM — take oath as ministers

**PATNA:** Bihar's longest-serving Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was on Thursday sworn in for a record 10th term at a grand ceremony here, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CMs of several NDA-ruled states and senior alliance leaders. Kumar was administered the oath of office at the Gandhi Maidan.

"Congratulations to Shri Nitish Kumar Ji on taking oath as Bihar's Chief Minister. He is an experienced administrator with a proven track record of good governance for many years. My best wishes to him for his tenure ahead," Modi wrote on X.

Modi, who had told voters during the campaign that he would "return for the swearing-in of an NDA government", delighted the crowd when he lifted his trademark 'gamchha' and swirled it above his head, a gesture that has become a signature of the 75-year-old leader.

**26 take oath as ministers**

Besides Kumar, 26 MLAs were — 14 from the BJP, eight from the JD(U), two from LJP(RV), and one each from HAM and RLM — were sworn in as ministers. They included Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, both deputy CMs in the previous government, who have been elected as the BJP's leader and deputy leader, respectively.

With a tally of 89, the BJP has emerged as the single largest party in the Bihar Assembly and, predictably, it had the lion's share of 14 ministers in the newly sworn-in cabinet.

Besides Choudhary and Sinha, other BJP leaders who took oath included Mangal



PM Narendra Modi with Nitish Kumar after the swearing-in ceremony in Patna on Thursday. PIC/PTI

Pandey, Nitin Nabin and Surendra Prasad Mehta, all of whom were ministers in the previous government. State BJP president Dilip Jaiswal, who had resigned from the cabinet nearly two years ago in keeping with the party's 'one person, one post' policy, was back in the council of ministers.

Another minister who is back after a break is Narayan Prasad. LJP(RV) ministers include Sanjay Kumar Paswan of Bakhri, an associate of the late

**'He [Nitish Kumar] is an experienced administrator with a proven track record of good governance'**

PM Narendra Modi

Ram Vilas Paswan, and Sanjay Kumar Singh, who defeated Tej Pratap Yadav in Mahua.

**Fresh faces**

The party has also brought in fresh faces like Shreyasi Singh, a professional shooter of international fame, who has been elected from Jamui for a second consecutive term. Other BJP leaders who will enjoy a ministerial berth for the first time are Arun Shankar Prasad, Dr Pramod Kumar, Lakhendra Kumar Raushan, Sanjay Singh Tiger and Rama Nishad.

Another notable inclusion is Ram Kripal Yadav, former Union minister who lost the Pataliputra Lok Sabha seat last year but was elected from

Danapur in the assembly polls.

**14**  
No. of BJP leaders inducted as ministers

From the JD(U) quota, all the inductees were ministers in the previous government. They include Zama Khan, the lone Muslim MLA in the NDA.

Other inductees included Bijendra Yadav, Shrawan Kumar, Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, Leshi Singh and Madan Sahni, Sunil Kumar and Ashok Choudhary. The NDA also comprises smaller allies LJP(RV), HAM and RLM, led by Union ministers Chirag Paswan, Jitan Ram Manjhi and Rajya Sabha MP Upendra Kushwaha, respectively.

From HAM, Santosh Suman, Manjhi's son and party president, was re-inducted.

Agencies

**Delhi blast: NIA takes custody of 3 doctors, preacher**

**NEW DELHI:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday took custody of three doctors and a preacher who were arrested in connection with the November 10 car blast outside the Red Fort in which 15 people were killed.

Muzammil Ganaie, Adeel Rather, and Shaheena Saeed as well as Maulvi Irfan Ahmed Wagay had earlier been arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir police. The anti-terror probe agency took them into custody in Srinagar following production orders from the district sessions judge at the Patiala House court here, according to a statement from an NIA spokesperson.

"They had all played a key role in the terror attack that killed several innocent persons and left many others injured, as per NIA investigations," the spokesperson said.

With their custody shifting to the NIA, which formally took over the case on November 11, the number of people booked in connection with a 'white collar' terror plot has gone up to six.

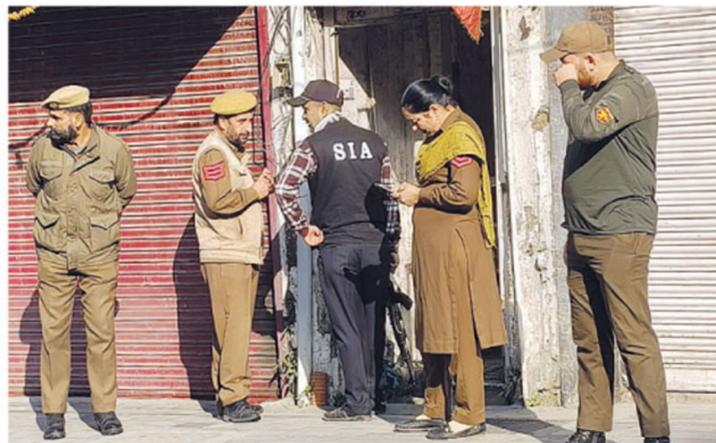
The NIA has already arrested two people — Amir Rashid Ali and Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish. Those arrested are alleged to be at the centre of the terror module busted by Jammu and Kashmir police along with their counterparts in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Investigations led to the Al-Falah university in Faridabad where 2900 kg of explosives was recovered.

Agencies



United Hindu Front leaders raise anti-terror slogans during a protest in New Delhi. PTI/FILE PIC

## J&K cops raid Kashmir Times office, recover AK rifles



State Investigation Agency outside the Kashmir Times office. PIC/PTI

**JAMMU:** The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police raided the office of the Kashmir Times here on Thursday for allegedly promoting activities against the country and recovered cartridges of AK rifles and some rounds of pistol, among other things.

Officials said that SIA sleuths conducted a thorough search of the newspaper's premises and computers after a case was registered against the publication and its promoters.

In the raid, the SIA seized cartridges of AK rifles, some

rounds of pistol and hand grenade pins, among other items, they said. The promoters of the publication are likely to be questioned, they informed.

Reacting to the raid, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Singh Choudhary said action should follow only in cases where wrongdoing is established and not for the sake of pressure.

**In the raid, the SIA seized cartridges of AK rifles, some rounds of pistol and hand grenade pins**

"If they have done something wrong, then action should be taken...if you do it only to (build) pressure, then that will be wrong", Choudhary told reporters here.

**Attempt to suppress**

The Kashmir Times management sharply criticised the reported raids on its Jammu office, terming the allegations of activities inimical to the state a coordinated attempt to suppress an independent media institution.

Agencies



(From left) Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia sits with Tesla CEO Elon Musk as US President Donald Trump speaks at the US-Saudi Investment Forum on Wednesday. PIC/AFP

# You're so lucky I'm with you: Trump takes dig at Musk

Tesla CEO gets back with 'thank you for all you've done for America, world', signalling possible ease in tensions

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump again targeted the Tesla CEO, ensuring their long-running rift remained in focus. Addressing the US-Saudi Investment Forum in his signature unscripted style on Wednesday (Thursday India time), Trump repeatedly mentioned the "favours" he claimed to have done for Musk during the billionaire's short leadership of the Department of Government Efficiency.

Before continuing his remarks, Trump paused to ask, "Has he ever thanked me for that properly?" Trump also asserted that his administration was providing the middle class "a deduction on the interest if they buy one of a nice Tesla car and they borrow the money."

Glancing in billionaire Elon Musk's direction, he remarked, "You're so lucky. I'm with you, Elon." Moments later, he joked, "Though I do let him buy cars that aren't electric — but those are minor details."

## Trump defends H-1B visa

Speaking at the forum, Trump said companies investing heavily in advanced facilities cannot "open a massive computer chip factory for billions and billions of dollars" and then "hire people off an unemployment

## Trump signs bill for release of all Epstein files

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump announced that he had signed a bill directing the Department of Justice to publicly release all its Jeffrey Epstein-related files. Trump made the announcement in a lengthy social media post, using it to criticise Democrats over their associations with Epstein. "Perhaps the truth about these Democrats, and their associations with Jeffrey Epstein, will soon be revealed, because I have just signed the bill to release the Epstein files!" he said, referring to former president Bill Clinton, former treasury secretary Larry Summers and LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman.

line to run it," stressing that foreign experts are often required to train American workers before leaving. Despite opposition from some MAGA supporters, Trump maintained that high-skilled immigration is essential.

## 'Meeting Mamdani today'

The US President said that New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani will meet him at the White House on Friday (Saturday India time). Trump has been critical of Mamdani's policies and had warned on the eve of the November 4 election that Mamdani's win would be a "complete and total economic and social disaster" for New York City.

## '350% tax threat ended war'

At the forum, Trump once again claimed that he personally stopped India and Pakistan from approaching a nuclear confrontation, saying he warned both nations with harsh economic measures, including a 350 per cent tariff on each country during the tense period in May 2025.

## Musk says 'thank you'

Soon after the forum, Musk signalled a possible easing of tensions and posted on X, "I would like to thank President Trump for all he has done for America and the world." He accompanied the message with photographs of himself alongside Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, NVIDIA chief Jensen Huang and Trump at the Washington event.

Agencies

## Tool turns surfaces to keyboard

DALLAS: Researchers have built an augmented reality (AR) device that lets users type on everyday objects. PropType, overlays a virtual keyboard onto items such as bottles and



The PropType AR interface. PIC COURTESY/THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

books, while fixing persistent AR issues — slow typing and arm fatigue caused by floating interfaces. PropType uses a handheld object as the base for a keyboard, giving users tactile feedback. Virtual keyboards so far demanded mid-air typing and constant visual focus. PropType fixes that by shifting input back to the physical world. It places a keyboard layout on a real object and adapts to its shape, helping it work in many settings where external keyboards are not practical.

Agencies



A modeller uses a CAD tool to create a 3D design. REPRESENTATION PIC/ISTOCK

## AI learns CAD by watching humans work

BOSTON: Engineers are developing an AI model that can operate CAD software the same way a human designer does. The system takes a 2D sketch and turns it into a 3D model by clicking buttons and navigating menus inside the software. The project aims to lower CAD's steep learning curve and make design work faster and more accessible.

The team created a new dataset called VideoCAD. It contains over 41,000 examples showing how designers build 3D models inside CAD tools. These videos record every click, drag, and selection that shapes an object. By studying this data, the AI learns how humans move through CAD interfaces to create parts and objects.

Engineers see this as a path to a "CAD co-pilot" that supports users during modelling work. Such a system could generate 3D designs from sketches and also suggest next steps or automate repetitive operations.

Agencies

The system could make 3D designs, suggest next steps, and automate repetitive operations

## Philippines: Former mayor convicted of human trafficking

MANILA: A Philippine court convicted a former mayor, who officials say is a Chinese national, of human trafficking charges for helping establish an illegal online gaming complex in a northern province where hundreds of Chinese and other foreign nationals were forced to conduct scams. The court in Manila sentenced Alice Guo to life in prison with seven other Filipino and Chinese co-accused, ordered them to pay a fine of 2 million pesos (\$34,000) each, and to compensate several trafficking victims who filed the complaints. Guo denied all allegations against her and says she is a Filipino citizen.

Agencies

Alice Guo, former mayor of Bamban in Philippines' Tarlac province. FILE PIC/AFP



The collision took place close to Ceske Budejovice city at 6.20 am on Thursday. PIC/GETTY IMAGES

## Czech railway accident leaves dozens injured

PRAGUE: An express train collided with a passenger train in the southern Czech Republic on Thursday, injuring dozens of people. The accident took place near the city of Ceske Budejovice around 6.20 am. Two people were seriously injured while about 40 suffered light injuries, officials said. Train traffic was halted and was not expected to resume until hours later.

Agencies

## Semeru eruption forces rescue of over 170 climbers in Indonesia

JAKARTA: Indonesian authorities said on Thursday they helped more than 170 climbers who were caught a day earlier by Mount Semeru's sudden eruption to return to safety as the seismic activity of Java island's highest volcano indicated that the eruption will continue. About 178 people, including climbers, porters, guides, tourism officials and tourists, started their way up the 3676-metre (12,060-foot) mountain in the Lumajang district of East Java province on Wednesday and became stranded at the Ranu Kumbolo camping area.

Agencies



People walk on ground covered in volcanic ash in Supiturang village, East Java, on Thursday. PIC/AFP

# comment

THOUGHT  
FOR THE DAY

You cannot subsidise irresponsibility and expect people to be more responsible  
— Thomas Sowell, American economist

## Irresponsible citizens contribute majorly to city's chaos

To rid the western side of Borivli railway station of traffic congestion, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation and Borivli traffic police have blocked 12 crossings on a 100-metre section of SV Road.

According to the traffic police, thousands of vehicles ply this stretch daily. There are delays in traversing this distance because of pedestrians dashing across the road, crossing over at several junctures. A traffic police officer stated in the report that they

decided to block all gaps used by pedestrians to cross the road, and these 12 gaps needed to have permanent closures.

Barricades and fences have been set up to prevent people from climbing over. This has made locals happy, since they negotiate that distance faster and with less trouble. Some of them were taking narrow lanes as shortcuts to reach their destinations in time, which is not a good idea at all.

There is a real need to look at sever-

al traffic-dense areas, especially challenging stretches of roads and assess if people climbing over short dividers or even gaps are slowing down traffic, posing a danger not only to themselves but others, too, while running across the road amidst moving traffic.

While some dividers are low, so people are able to clamber over them. Sometimes, fence bars have been twisted and broken so that people can squeeze through them. There are gaps in between anti-crossing infra allow-

ing people to push through them.

Those crossing over are in a hurry, and any gap suits them. They try to get across using lacunae in road infrastructure and exploit the spaces.

While repairs are important and plugging gaps becomes vital, people need legitimate crossing points for safety. Crossings are made for a reason, barricades are installed for yet another reason, so adhere to rules. Like they say, mind the gap — for all the right reasons.

## LETTERS

### Her mother pushes her chair, Rutvi pushes limits

This refers to 'Where there's a wheel, there's a bullseye!'. Wheelchair-bound archer Rutvi Lolge, with her mother's unwavering support, shows how talent and grit can defy all odds. Hopefully, her story inspires the Archery Association of India, NGOs, and philanthropists to support her dream.

AMIT BANERJEE

### People like Rutvi Lolge inspire all of us

Athletes like Rutvi Lolge and Sheetal Devi inspire not just differently abled athletes but everyone, showing how determination can triumph against all odds.

BAL GOVIND

### BEST, it's time to revive the classics

This refers to 'A double-decker dream of a comeback'. Commuters have always loved double-decker buses. It's time for BEST to bring them back on long routes for easier travel.

CAJETAN PETER D'SOUZA

### Arresting Jawad before he could escape was smart

Apropos of 'Al-Falah chairman Jawad Ahmed remanded to ED custody', agencies acted quickly after the November 10 Delhi blast. The National Investigation Agency's probe and Enforcement Directorate's timely arrest before his escape show strong coordination, with magisterial proceedings ensuring the case proceeds efficiently.

PV PRAKASH

### have your say!



[www.facebook.com/mid-day](http://www.facebook.com/mid-day)

[www.twitter.com/mid\\_day](http://www.twitter.com/mid_day)

[instagram.com/middayindia](http://instagram.com/middayindia)

Write to us: [mailbag@mid-day.com](mailto:mailbag@mid-day.com)

Printed and published by Shaikh Latif Gaffar on behalf of Mid-Day Infomedia Ltd, and printed at Balaji Globus Industrial Park, Bldg. No. B, Unit No. 1, 2 & 3, Bhiwandi-Nashik Bye Pass Road, Village-Walshind, Bhiwandi-421 302. Editorial and Advertising offices at 6th floor, RNA Corporate Park, off WEH, Kalanagar, Bandra (East) Mumbai 400 051; Telephone Nos: 6831 4800; Fax No: 26426812. RNI Number 35667/79 Postal Registration No MCN/314/2024-2026. Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the publisher is prohibited.  
Editor: \*Sachin Kalbag (\*Responsible for selection of news under the Press and Registration of Books Act 1867)

# Practising in imperfect conditions

LA VIE EN  
ROSA



Rosalyn D'Mello

Sustaining a writer's vocation is deeply linked to an individual's commitment to words, not when they are succeeding, but when they are floundering, even failing



I knew I wanted to be a writer since I was 10 years old. In every school 'autograph book' I signed, I would list my dream as wanting to be a 'poetess'. REPRESENTATION PIC/ISTOCK

"Practice" is a word to which I feel increasingly attuned in my late thirties. Possibly because it has accrued deeper connotations across the wider span of my lived experiences, even though the word registered itself in my vocabulary since childhood, I could date my intentional use of it to when I was in the third standard, so about eight years old, and joined the children's choir. We had 'practice' every Thursday, if I remember correctly. I had also begun weekly piano practice around then. In school, we had "marching" practice all through December ahead of Sport's Day, and we usually called it "practice" if we were cast in some school play or singing competition and needed to attend daily rehearsals.

The frequency of our usage of the word begins to wane over time, however, especially as we get busy earning a living and find ourselves short on time for hobbies. Unless you have friends who are getting married and you need to brush up on your choreographed dancing skills, one doesn't 'attend' practice, nor do we necessarily even dare to chart new waters and take on a new vocation.

I was 10 years old when I knew I wanted to be a writer. In every school "autograph book" I signed, I would list my dream as wanting to be a "poetess". At some point, it changed to psychologist, but the dream of wanting to be a writer remained. It was what moved me to pursue a graduate degree in English literature. I had no one in my immediate circle of friends and acquaintances who could show me the ropes. I wrote sappy poems that I only shared with my best friend. I read a lot, not just because reading books was part of my syllabus, but because I had internalised that in order to write better, you had to digest as many literary works as you could. There were no creative writing programmes in my student days, so I had no way of knowing that to build a writing prac-

tice, you had to commit to writing regularly. You had to build a discipline of attentive listening and intentional note-taking. I didn't know any of this, but the one thing I did, intuitively, was maintain a diary. I didn't do daily entries, but I did attempt regularity. I still have the first disciplined diary I maintained during the first year of my undergraduate degree. Most of my entries recount the pure joy of making contact with new ideas, with professors who excited me, who made their subjects come alive, professors who have now passed away, like Eddie.

One of the reasons I've been thinking of practice so much is because I recently undertook my first art writing assignment in more than a year. Because the editor is a friend, and the artist I'm writing about is someone who has influenced my writing. Where, ordinarily, a piece of this nature would have taken me two weeks at best, amid other work and assignments, this time I've taken two months! Not only because I feel "un-

practiced" but because the demands of motherhood and full-time work make it so difficult to find the time to immerse myself in such writing. Because to get into a state of flow, you need to be able to give yourself time. You need to try out a few sentences, see how they align, delete if necessary, begin again from scratch, even. In order to "save" time, I got my recording transcribed by AI only to learn that doing the transcripts myself is actually a significant part of my practice. It helps me pick up on what is unspoken, what lies beneath the surface of a conversation.

As my 10-year alliance with **mid-day** as a columnist comes to a close, I've been reflecting on what it has meant for me to publish such a feminist diary every week for a decade. This discipline definitely altered the tenor of my writing. This intervening period is book-ended by two of my own books. I wrote my first column after my debut book, and will soon write my last ahead of the interna-

tional publication of my next book, which owes its literariness to the discipline that was nurtured because of this column.

I'm toying with the idea of a Substack newsletter to continue the practice. I'll let you know if I do, so you can subscribe for my updates. I've been wrestling with all the scraps, leftovers, and notations made over 15 years of my writing practice. Maybe what they need is to live in a virtual house. I still don't know at what point I truly "became" a writer. I've accepted that sustaining this vocation is hinged to one's commitment to words, not when one is succeeding but when one is floundering, even failing. To be a writer is to keep at it, even if the tap runs dry.

Deliberating on the life and times of every woman, Rosalyn D'Mello is a reputable art critic and the author of *A Handbook For My Lover*. She posts @rosad1985 on Instagram

Send your feedback to [mailbag@mid-day.com](mailto:mailbag@mid-day.com)

# 'He is no longer the Srikant with swag and sharpness'

Returning with 'The Family Man 3' after four years, Manoj Bajpayee discusses how his much-loved spy has lost his mojo this season as he locks horns with Jaideep Ahlawat

MOHAR BASU

mohar.basu@mid-day.com

SRIKANT Tiwari's fans are eager to meet him in the third season of *The Family Man*. But as soon as we sit down for a chat with Manoj Bajpayee, who plays arguably India's most loved spy in the Prime Video series, he makes it clear that his character has changed in the four years since the second edition ended. "Srikant is not in his top form right now. He's a little wobbly," starts the actor.

Despite being a spy thriller, a huge part of the series' appeal lies in creators Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK's treatment of the family dynamics. Bajpayee reveals that the opening episode will establish how the protagonist is in a rocky place with his family. The actor explains, "Any common person derives their strength from the family. Even if there is a quarrel in the family, the day is messed up. So, he is not

Having shot a part of the series in Nagaland, Manoj Bajpayee says the warmth of the locals stood out for him. "The villages are worth going to, just to see how much they believe in cleanliness and discipline," he says.

**Jaideep badhiya actor hai! When you work with brilliant actors, you feel great as an artiste. You feed off each other**

Manoj Bajpayee



Manoj Bajpayee in

'The Family Man'

PICS/YOUTUBE, INSTAGRAM

## DID YOU KNOW?

Manoj Bajpayee first teamed up with Jaideep Ahlawat for 'Chittagong' (2011). The historical drama saw them work with Ahlawat's Film & Television Institute of India batchmates Rajkumar Rao and Vijay Varma.



A still from 'Chittagong'

the Srikant Tiwari with his swag and sharpness. His job is gone; he is trying to get his strength and mojo back."

It helps then that the drama is elevated by Jaideep Ahlawat, who plays his nemesis in the series. For Bajpayee, it was a delight to reunite with the actor after *Chittagong* (2011) and *Gangs of Wasseypur* (2012). "We would keep meeting on and off," says Bajpayee. If an on-screen face-off between the two powerful actors sounds like a cinephile's dream, Bajpayee agrees that they both elevated each other's work. "Jaideep ba-

dhiya actor hai! When you work with brilliant actors, you feel great as an artiste. You feed off each other."

For the latest season, Raj-DK have taken the story to Northeast India. Considering we all witnessed the conflict in Manipur last year, we ask Bajpayee how much of the local politics makes it to the show. "A lot of it does, but the show is primarily set in Nagaland. Not all the states in the Northeast are going through [conflict]. Entertainment is always our primary motive, but that hint of what we want to say shows in the story."



A still from the film

## Small film, big ambition

Amid indie filmmakers crying foul about screen distribution, director Subodh Khanolkar and Zee5 head decode taking Marathi film 'Dashavatar' to a wider audience through streaming

MOHAR BASU

mohar.basu@mid-day.com

WHILE 46 indie filmmakers across the country are planning to start a collective to champion small-budget films and ensure equitable screens for them (We are developing a collective of filmmakers, Nov 19), Marathi filmmaker Subodh Khanolkar feels he is in a place of privilege. The director's latest release, *Dashavatar*, not only had a strong run in theatres, but is also being aggressively promoted by Zee5 since it dropped on November 14.

Starring Dilip Prabhavalkar, the September release originally opened with 600 shows. Soon, bolstered by strong word-of-mouth, the Marathi thriller jumped to 800 shows. But the bigger push came when it premiered on Zee5, with the streamer executing a 15-day pre-release promotional plan. The platform also employed targeted advertising on Instagram to grab the attention of viewers interested in mythology. Hema VR, business head, Marathi ZEE5, explains, "To ensure *Dashavatar* sustains momentum, we are activating a multi-layered strategy that goes beyond just Mumbai and Pune. We're reaching deeper pockets of the country, including Solapur, Kolhapur, Sangli, and more through targeted digital ads and strong social media amplification."

Khanolkar is ecstatic that his movie, a blend of Konkani folklore and mystery, has resonated with people far and wide. "When I saw *Dashavatar* receive appreciation not only from Marathi audience, but also from viewers of other languages, it felt reassuring that our efforts were moving in the right direction," he says.

**'Dashavatar' has become the first Marathi film to be dubbed into Malayalam**

# 'I have a right to blackmail Naseer saab'

Having bonded with Naseeruddin Shah since 'Taj', director Vibhu Puri reveals how he almost blackmailed the senior actor to star in 'Gustaakh Ishq'

PRIYANKA SHARMA

priyanka.sharma@mid-day.com

MANY films are born as adaptation of books. In contrast, *Gustaakh Ishq* was born because a book could not be adapted. First-time producer Manish Malhotra had initially approached Vibhu Puri to adapt a 400-page book. When the director said the adaptation would take far too long, Malhotra asked him one question: 'Do you have something that you want to make?' Enter *Gustaakh Ishq*, starring Naseeruddin Shah, Vijay Varma, and Fatima Sana Shaikh.

Puri recalls, "I told Manish this story

set in old Delhi and Punjab. As soon as he heard it, Manish said he wanted to make it."

For the director, reuniting with the veteran actor after *Taj: Divided by Blood* was a dream come true. But the dream was on the verge of not materialising. "Initially, I thought he would be khadoos. But Naseer saab was so nice to me during *Taj* that I fell in love with him. He agreed to star in this film, but then we had some date issues. So, Manish and I went to his house and I said, 'If you don't want to do it, tell me who I



Director Vibhu Puri is returning to feature films 10 years after his last offering, 'Hawaizaada', led by Ayushmann Khurrana

should work with.' Naseer said that I was blackmailing him, to which I said, 'Yes, I will. I have a right to do that to you,' he grins.

Romances have dominated the box office in 2025. As he brings his love story, Puri believes the audience has had enough of action offerings. "Between 1987 and 1989, films like *Aag Hi*



A still from 'Gustaakh Ishq'

*Aag* [1987] and *Aag Ka Gola* [1989] were being made. Then suddenly, there was *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak* [1988], followed by *Maine Pyar Kiya* [1989] and *Aashiqui* [1990]. It changed the entire decade. After COVID too, everyone thought people will only watch event films. But in the end, a person needs happiness, love, and affection."

# Feeling lonely

FILMMAKER **Karan Johar** recently appeared on Sania Mirza's chat show *Serving It Up with Sania*, where he opened up about the solitude of singlehood and his search for love. He shared that there was a time he longed deeply for "companionship" and endured "a broken heart" and "one-sided love". He also shared that people advised him to look for love abroad, but his responsibilities kept him rooted. "Go where? I live here, I have a mom and two kids. I have to live here. I've gone through those beats, and I do get lonely; it's a reality. You get the loneliest in your highs, not your lows. Eating alone is another thing that makes you feel lonely," he added.



Scan for more entertainment news

# Spring baby



Sonam Kapoor

ACTOR **Sonam Kapoor** is expecting her second child with businessman husband Anand Ahuja. On November 20, the 40-year-old actor shared the news with a post on social media. It featured her dressed in pink, flaunting her baby bump. She captioned the post, "Coming Spring 2026."

॥ पंचम निषाद ॥ presents 135<sup>th</sup> **प्रातःपंचम**

'Every Concert ... New Artist' ... Since 2006

**ARATI THAKUR KUNDALKAR**  
Vocal

Sanjay Deshpande - Tabla  
Suyog Kundalkar - Harmonium

**23 SUNDAY** 6.30am **KALANGAN**  
NOV 2025 RAVINDRA NATYA MANDIR, PRABHADEVI, MUMBAI

**FREE ENTRY** Contact : 7045597505

**28 FRIDAY** Nov. 2025  
6:45 pm Onwards  
CIDCO Auditorium, Vashi

**SUR TAAL**  
"Where passion meets perfection"

In Association with **DigiTathya**

**35 ARTISTS** Presents

**Lata-Ratna**  
A tribute to Lata Mangeshkar

By **Shailaja Subramanian**

Curator & Produced by **H S Makkar (Babloo)**  
Executive Producer **M K Makkar (Neelu)**

Orchestra by **Finger Snaps** Music Conducted by **Anupam Ghatak** and **Chirag Panchal**

Anchor **Dhanashree Damale** Sound **Nitish Phanse**

Online Booking **book my show**

For Enquiry Contact : 9136142357

Event Powered by **BALAJI WORLD** Associate Sponsor **SHIKARA** Event Supported by **HSA**, **Zine**, **mmf**, **RONAK**, **BRIGHT** Media Partners **U&I** Event Manager

# In company of eternal beauty



(L-R) Rekha and Anupam Kher. PICS/INSTAGRAM

ACTOR **Anupam Kher** penned a heartfelt note for Bollywood diva **Rekha**, calling her "an epitome of grace, beauty, and warmth", as he united with her at an event. Anupam shared pictures from the premiere of Farhan Akhtar-starrer *120 Bahadur* on his Instagram

handle, and wrote, "It was a pleasure to meet Rekha ji at the premiere of *120 Bahadur*! She is the epitome of not only grace and beauty, but also of warmth and magnanimity of appreciating the other person! There is and there will be never anybody like her. She is eternal!"

**NITA MUKESH AMBANI CULTURAL CENTRE**  
PRESENTS

**MAVIN KHOO**  
**IN CONCERT**  
BHARATANATYAM  
DR. BRINDA MANICKAVASAKAM  
VIJAY KUMAR, KIRAN PAI & KP NANDINI  
SUPPORTED BY RELIANCE FOUNDATION

**TOMORROW, NOVEMBER 22, 2025 | 8.00 PM**  
**THE STUDIO THEATRE**  
ENTRY FOR AGES 6+

**TICKETS STARTING AT ₹ 750**  
NITA MUKESH AMBANI CULTURAL CENTRE, BKC  
Book now on [nmacc.com](http://nmacc.com) | [bookmyshow](http://bookmyshow)

91.1 FM **Radio City**  
FM BOLE TOH A JAGRAN INITIATIVE

No strings attached

**RADIO WALA BOYFRIEND**  
Aapdo Karan

**SHARMATI HUI MUSKURAHAT, LEKAR AATI HAI ISKI SHARARAT**

**Mon to Sat**  
**3 PM to 5 PM**

**RADIO CITY**  
91.1 FM MUMBAI

WWW.RADIOCITY.IN  
f t i y /RADIOCITYINDIA

6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
INFINITI MALL MALAD WEST

VENUE PARTNER **infiniti**  
The road with infinite experiences

**PADMASHRI KAILASH KHER**  
& *Kailasa Live*

CONTACT FOR GROUP BOOKING  
**79770176645**

FILM REVIEW

MAYANK SHEKHAR  
mayank.shekh@mid-day.com

# BRAVO!

THE protagonist of this picture, leading the eponymous *120 Bahadur*, is Major Shaitan Singh. That name obviously strikes a thought in the viewer. As it does with the jawans he's leading, in the Indo-China war, that this film is set in.

The soldiers round up around their boss, in a scene, guessing the etymology.

In the sense of why would parents name their new-born Shaitan/Devil, after all! The guess work includes the fact that he must've been a naughty infant, or that a teacher actually named him so, etc.

The hero still doesn't tell you why he's named Shaitan. The scene is left as is. The curiosity continues. Which is just the way as it should be, rather than movies that explain everything.

This one, in fact, hardly burdens you with detailed context/backdrop to the Indo-China relations/war itself, besides an opening narration by Amitabh Bachchan, with stock

footage of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, suggesting that there was an expressed friendship between the two neighbouring nations once, followed by fatal betrayal.

India, indeed, lost the expansionist 1962 China war. *120 Bahadur* is about a battle that she did win, while heavily outnumbered against an estimated 3000 Chinese soldiers, at a particular post, in Ladakh. Who were these 120 Bahadurs?

As you can see, they belonged to the Ahir community, from the plains, unused to sub-zero temperatures, and the harshly Himalayan terrain. This is widely known/celebrated as the Battle of Rezang La of

November 18, 1962.

It's preserved in public memory enough that I find myself extensively ChatGPT/Googling, as would you — on both the pastoral Ahir community, that ascribes its lineage to the legend of Lord Krishna, and the battle they fought as Charlie Company under 13 Kumaon Regiment.

That's what great movies do. Including war films, whether that be *Dunkirk* (on WWII), or *Platoon* (for Vietnam War). They ignite supreme interest. *120 Bahadur* is not an exception.

Farhan Akhtar plays the said Major Shaitan Singh. He also made *Lakshya* (2004) on the 1999 Indo-Pak Kargil War, similarly shot in Ladakh. He was the director then. He's the lead actor now, and has been a multi-hyphenate since, including an onstage rockstar.

What you find inspiring about him as a performer, regardless, is how he confidently employs his uniqueness, whether that be the husk in his voice, or understated mannerisms, to own his talent, and simply put it out the best he can. Working his way around, without overthinking the reception.

You can tell that at least, he's engrossed. You're drawn to Major Shaitan Singh, to whatever extent as an audience, because he's feeling the role. You sense it. He's had a decent run as an actor, hence.

Except for certain films, especially those not produced by him, the likes of *Lucknow Central* (2017),

where he looks lost as a result.

*120 Bahadur* is by itself a remarkable production — tightly edited, handpicked ensemble cast, first-rate sound design, the works — by his own company, i.e. Excel (along with producer Amit Chandra).

This is essential for a movie of this genre, since it's all about the execution, isn't it?

The idea is already known. Take *Lakshya*. It means goal. In the very first shot, you watch the lead, Hrithik Roshan, in the Army now, so that goal has been visibly accomplished.

Likewise, *120 Bahadur* opens with a wounded radio-operator (Sparsh Walia) — you're sure, so ahead of time that he's the sole survivor — narrating the story of C-Company at Rezang La.

What happens next, hence, is not the point. How it happens is wholly where the magic resides.

Also, as anybody on Instagram will tell you, point the camera anywhere in the picturesque Ladakh, the images speak to you, anyway. What they tell becomes crucial, in this case.

In that vein, while the soldiers are on a war-path, the battle is viewed from one side alone, the script steers clear of bombastic delulu for self-pride/patriotism. You can equally gauge the price of war, protecting the "sar zameen" (top plot of the national map).

More so, an intense hate for the other — that professional armies rarely indulge in — is not the emotion you emerge from the theatre with.

Maybe, wishing to join the Army, as kids who watched *Lakshya* did, or Vishnuvardhan's underrated *Sher*

*shaah* (2021); or to be with the Air Force, as for those from an earlier vintage, who loved Govind Nihalani's *Vijeta* (1982)?

Yup. That's still a positive sentiment.

Speaking of past films, there are two I did watch, as homework for *120 Bahadur*, if you may. And this is way better than both, although comparisons are absolutely unnecessary.

The first being Chetan Anand's *Haqeeqat* (1964), with multiple Majors, Captain, Brigadier, and soldiers, along with local romance, that provided a broader overview of the 1962 Sino-Indian War.

It beats me, still, how the top actors (Dharmendra, Balraj Sahni, et al), along with Anand and his crew, pulled off that wide-angled war film, in the inhospitable Ladakh, back in the early '60s!

The other picture, I speed-watched? *Dhaakad* (2022), which is Razneesh Ghai, the *120 Bahadur* director's debut. Now *Dhaakad*, to be fair, is snazzy looking, but silly, tone-deaf, and dumb.

But it's a proper mainstream, mad-actioner, which would've probably landed Ghai, besides the script (Rajiv G Menon), this job.

By now, we've got as close to watching war as a lived experience as Sam Mendes's *1917* (2019), that it's impossible to turn back from it. Also, if you recall, actual/YouTube footage of Indian and Chinese soldiers, at it, with their elbows, legs and fists, in Galwan Valley (June, 2020).

Given all that, the last 20-30 minutes of *120 Bahadur* (and I should've clocked it), involving shelling, machine-guns, hand-to-hand combat, and the sheer mania of the moments, that grip and jolt you, simultaneously, remain the most engagingly realistic, live-action scenes of war, that I've watched in a Hindi film. And I mean, ever!

★YUCK ★★WHATEVER ★★★GOOD  
★★★★SUPER ★★★★★AWESOME

## No action, only drama

Tom Cruise announces his next project with Alejandro G Iñárritu



Tom Cruise and Alejandro G Iñárritu

HOLLYWOOD action star Tom Cruise shared a picture alongside Oscar-winning director Alejandro G Iñárritu on his social media and said he is excited for their upcoming film.

Cruise and Iñárritu are collaborating on a yet-untitled film from Warner Bros, which is set to release in theatres on October 2, 2026. It marks Iñárritu's first English-language film since the Leonardo DiCaprio-starrer *The Revenant* (2015).

The project will also be the first non-action film for Cruise after 13 years, following his work in *Rock of Ages* (2012).

Cruise uploaded a picture on his social media on Wednesday. The actor, who recently received an Honorary Oscar from the filmmaker at the 16th Governors Awards in Los Angeles, wrote, "Today, I share the first photo taken last year during a rehearsal on the set of my new film with Alejandro G Iñárritu." The actor recalled watching Iñárritu's acclaimed film *Amores Perros*, which released in 2000.

"Alejandro, 25 years ago I watched your first film, the classic *Amores Perros*. This weekend, 25 years later, I was deeply moved to have been presented the Honorary Oscar by you, my dear friend. I cannot wait to share our new film with you all next year," he said.

The upcoming film is about the "most powerful man in the world" who embarks on a "frantic mission to prove he is humanity's saviour before the disaster he has unleashed, destroys everything," according to the official logline.

Cruise's latest work *Mission: Impossible: The Final Reckoning* released in May and was directed by Christopher McQuarrie.

13

The number of years after Tom Cruise did a non-action film



Farhan Akhtar in '120 Bahadur'. PICS/INSTAGRAM

The Tom Cruise-starrer marks Alejandro G Iñárritu's first English-language film since 'The Revenant' (2015)

# Swing it in November

A medley of jazz in all its contemporary, classic, and fluid form arrives in Mumbai with the 2025 edition of NCPA's International Jazz Festival

SHRIRAM IYENGAR  
shriram.iyengar@mid-day.com

IT was the inimitable Miles Davis who said, "For me, music and life are all about style." These elements of style, rhythm, swing, and the Blues will be on display as the 14th edition of the National Centre for Performing Arts' (NCPA) International Jazz Festival opens today.

Diversity is one of the key highlights of the edition's curation, remarks Farrahnaz Irani, general manager, international music, NCPA. "Jazz has always been an essential strand in its [the city's] evolving musical tapestry. This year, we are honoured to welcome Peter Cincotti, Brian Bromberg, Nicki Parrott, and the Mike Stern Band to the NCPA. Their musicality, versatility, style and footing in the music world not only enriches our festival but also strengthens Mumbai's place on the international music map," she shares.

For Peter Cincotti, the visit to Mumbai will be his first to the Maximum City. Having broken through at the age of 18, the singer-songwriter went on to collaborate with names like Andrea Bocelli, David Guetta and shared the stage with the late Ray Charles. It is the novelty that makes the experience all the more adventurous for Cincotti. "If I am lucky, I hope they can see part of themselves in my music and lyrics," he says. While playing his cards close to the chest, the New Yorker reveals, "Since the audience is new for me, I will give them highlights from all of my records; and hopefully take them on a journey through time and genres."

Others, like veteran producer and composer Brian Bromberg are more than familiar with Mumbai, and its musical scene.



Peter Cincotti plays the piano during a live performance. PIC COURTESY/@PETERCINCOTTI



Nicki Parrott. PICS COURTESY/OOROO RECORDS ON YOUTUBE

The Los Angeles-based bassist and producer first visited the city with jazz icon Stan Getz during Mumbai's iconic Jazz Yatra in 1980. Recalling the moment, he says, "I was only 19-years-old, and had not travelled the world at all. It was a life-changing experience."

The trip to the city has stayed with him. "Even back then, the people loved the music; it was very cool to see," he adds. This time around, the producer plans to present 'more traditional and cool jazz' with big band swing that is a key feature of his 40-year career. "We will also be playing music that is

on the acoustic side. It will still be funky and groovy and will include straight-ahead classic jazz [simple and gimmick-free rhythms, melodies and time signatures]," the LA native elaborates.

While Bromberg loves the technicality of jazz, Australian-born vocalist Nicki Parrott offers a simpler explanation. "Music has the power to affect our mood quite dramatically. So, I want people to walk away with a smile on their faces," she says. Having made her mark on Broadway with the musicals, *Jekyll & Hyde*, and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Parrott wants to highlight her repertoire of jazz standards. "I like to play and sing a lot of tunes people will know, but I also like to show what the band can do," she signs off. Mumbai's jazz geeks are certainly looking forward to it.

ON November 21 to 23; 6 pm onwards AT Tata Theatre, NCPA, Nariman Point. LOG ON TO [ncpamumbai.com](http://ncpamumbai.com) COST ₹450 onwards (members); ₹525 onwards (non-members)

## Don't miss

CATCH the contemporary dance production, *A Million Sitas*, that explores the unspoken tale of the women of the epic, *Ramayana*. Dr Anita Ratnam's performance draws from the many versions of the epic to express the politics of desire, freedom and identity through the characters of Sita, Ahalya, Mandodari, and Surpanakha in the epic poem.

ON November 23; 5 pm AT Experimental Theatre, NCPA, Nariman Point. LOG ON TO [ncpamumbai.com](http://ncpamumbai.com) COST ₹270, ₹180 (members); ₹200, ₹300 (non-members)



Dr Anita Ratnam in a moment from a previous show of her production



Brian Bromberg (right) plays the cello at a session. PIC COURTESY/BRIANBROMBERG.NET



Mike Stern (left) and Dennis Chambers during a performance. PIC COURTESY/DENNISCHAMBERS.COM



EVENT

## Cocktail hour in SoBo

The Sassy Spoon in Nariman Point shuttered after 13 years, paving the way for a classy, unrushed cocktail bar

PHORUM PANDYA  
[theguide@mid-day.com](mailto:theguide@mid-day.com)

WHAT time are we meeting tonight?" The expected answer if you're in Mumbai, where time is money, would typically end with a slot, followed by "ish."

After 13 years of running The Sassy Spoon in Nariman Point, owner Rachel Goenka, founder-CEO, TCSC Hospitality, which also owns The Sassy Spoon (in Powai and Pune), House of Mandarin, Baraza and Sassy Teaspoon, wanted to usher change. New in its space is the smartly named 120-seater cocktail bar, 8ish. "The idea is to offer an unhurried space that fits naturally into people's everyday rhythm," says Goenka.

Designed by Shweta Kaushik of SKID, the aged wood and amber-hued lighting create an in-between hour — when time stands still, and ushers in an ambience to loosen up. Lenticular artwork shape-shifts between Salvador Dalí and John Lennon, amping up the quirk factor, including messages on the bar chairs like 'Throne of bad decisions', 'Chair of timeless banter' and 'Seat of accidental confessions'. The bar backdrop is lined with shelves that hold mixologist and creative director Jishnu AJ's fermentations and mixtures.



(Top) Lenon; (above) Fried Chicken Fermented in Hot Sauce. PICS/ATUL KAMBLE



Buff and Bone Marrow Slider



TASTE TEST

"The Sassy Spoon has history, emotion, and loyalty attached to it. This paves the way for an exciting new chapter. South Mumbai has great dining options, but few bars. People are looking for experience-first spaces that aren't formal or intimidating, but still represent thoughtful design," reasons Goenka.

The menu traverses European, Indian, and Mediterranean influences in comfortable small plates and bar bites.

Continued on page 18



Sambuca Togarashi Scallops



Pull-Apart Cheese Bread



Jishnu A.J.; Rachel Goenka

Continued from page 17

There's Pull-Apart Cheese Bread (₹420) with smoked scamorza and a sweet tomato chilli jam relish; succulent Buff and Bone Marrow Sliders (₹670) with bacon jam and cured egg yolk are mid-sized and hearty. Stand outs include Sambuca Togarashi Scallops (₹790) that have a sweet and smoky finish and Fried Chicken Fermented in Hot Sauce (₹420) that is flavourful without being too fiery. Polenta Fries with a crispy coating and a mushy cornmeal are served with a spiced tomato onion relish. A slather of nutty muhammara and a creamy White Bean Hummus (₹420) on sour-dough crackers, offer filling options for sharing portions.

Jishnu's stints include Ekaa, KOKO and Four Seasons Mumbai. He has divided 30 cocktails into three moods, including comforting, experimental, and rituals. "Our classics are improved with this method; we pre-batch some elements for 24 hours, diluting them with Perrier water to reach the right temperature. Our white negronis and martinis undergo a 24-hour freezing technique, making it possible to serve a cocktail within minutes," the creative director reveals.

For his experimental cocktails, ingredients have been sourced from across the globe. "My close bartender friends from everywhere are all pitching in. I've got worm-wood from Singapore; Naga peppers from Nagaland. My mixology is ingredient-centric. Wherever I travel to, I return with ingredients."

**8ish**  
AT Ground Floor, Express Towers, Plot A, Ramnath Goenka Marg, next to HDFC Bank, Nariman Point.  
TIME 5.30 pm to 1.30 am  
CALL 9457118888

THE GUIDE'S TOP TIPPLES

LIQUID SAND:

Sweet spice of mugwort greets the palate, balancing the strong notes of gin and smoked agave closed with citrus notes of Lillet Blanc, a fortified wine liqueur. COST ₹990

LENON:

A fruity muskmelon and basil mezcal cocktail (see pic on pg 17) with a shiso leaf infusion. "We use pectinex — a commercial enzyme blend used in the food industry to clarify juices and concentrates by breaking down pectin from fruits and vegetables during clarification. The drink is then carbonated," Jishu explains. COST ₹990

DANGEROUSLY UNHINGED:

A twist on the Boulevardier classic, the drink has whiskey with pandan leaf infusion. Hints of controlled sweetness emerge from banana saccharum. "The cocktail is clarified in a mixture of toasted sesame and milk. We strain this mixture through a coffee filter," says Jishnu. COST ₹990

TONGBA:

We loved this millet-based hot fermented drink from the North East. It is upgraded with white rum and sweet-sour elements. The drink is topped with hot water and served warm — perfect for winter nights. COST ₹1500

NEARLY MISBEHAVED:

It's served in gimlet style, with a sweet-sour mixture of supasawa. The drink has hints of mint, apple juice and herby ching feng, a north eastern herb, which makes-shifts for the bitters. COST ₹890



TRISHA GHOSH  
trisha.ghosh@mid-day.com

ONE of the best ways to deliver a serious message is to make it relatable for the audience. Recently, two faculty members — Professor Vandana Nanal and Dr Deepa Chari — from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Colaba and Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), Anushakti Nagar, respectively, have published a digital, illustrated book, *Tuning Mental Frameworks* (HBCSE, TIFR), illustrated by Prasad B Desai. Published on October 30, it contains 15 sequences illustrated in comic book-style, depicting various scenarios that students and professors in the field of scientific studies, particularly physics, experience regularly, revealing subtle biases of gender discrimination, self-doubt, and wrongful assumptions often plaguing these spaces.

We connected with both professors regarding the inspiration behind the book. "Many of the situations depicted are experiences one or both of us have faced. I can confidently say that the first two sequences, showing students assuming certain professors are male, reflect extremely common occurrences," says Professor Nanal, a senior academician working in experimental nuclear and accelerator physics. Even a scene showing a male colleague assuming a group of women are discussing shopping plans is something inspired from real life, she adds.

"We notice that, generally, students and teachers alike, are much more receptive to comments from male experts and professors, placing higher importance on their feedback and knowledge. We wanted to highlight this, mainly as it is often done unknowingly," Professor Nanal informs us.



Dr Deepa Chari (left) and Professor Vandana Nanal

# Life in pictures

A new digital illustrated book by two faculty members from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) tackles themes of gender equity, impostor syndrome, and implicit bias, opening up dialogue on creating inclusive spaces in scientific study and beyond

When one thinks of a professor...



The first sequence depicts a student assuming a woman in Professor Roy's office is an assistant; she turns out to be the professor herself. IMAGE, ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY/HBCSE, TIFR



Dr Chari explains that the book will speak to anyone under-represented in science, be it women, or those from different linguistic or socio-economic backgrounds. "Women comprise a minority of students, especially in physics. An illustration shows a female student's choice between computational physics and experimental techniques being assumed as the latter, which I've seen occurring frequently," she shares. "Even the scene wherein a female teacher rudely attributes the high number of girls scoring A+ to lenient marking is drawn from an actual incident."

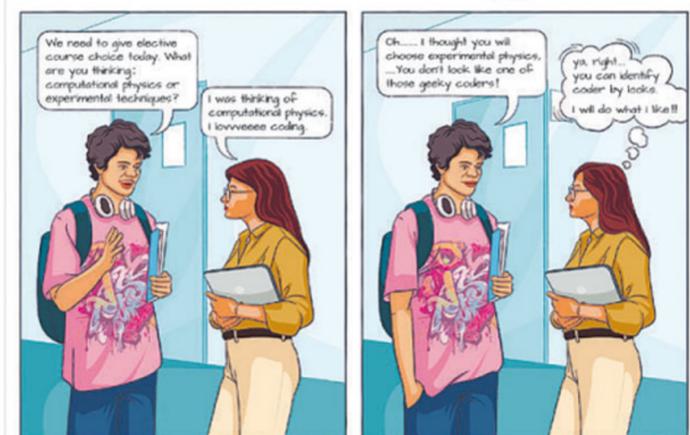
Both opine that women themselves have deeply-ingrained biases, which brings us to another theme throughout the book: Impostor Syndrome. Described as the psychological experience of doubting one's own skills and accomplishments, and almost feeling like a 'fraud', the book showcases these via interest-

Presumptions can land you in soup...



The scene showing a male colleague making assumptions based on gender, leading to embarrassment and negative social image

...Breaking typical conventions



Panels depicting the implicit bias regarding choice, based on gender

ing and amusing scenarios. Professor Nanal points out its final sequence: "The girl being hesitant to speak up, while the boy asks the very same question she had, is strikingly common too." This writer concurs, having witnessed similar incidents with children as young as 11. "These biases are rooted in our social upbringing, especially in households wherein predominantly [senior male members] take decisions," she observes.

Dr Chari tells us that she has seen even well-established women experiencing Impostor Syndrome or implicit bias from others. "We must get rid of these stereotypes, micro-aggressions, and seemingly innocuous prejudices. We need institutional changes for inclusivity, and policies implemented to ensure sensitivity towards others," she asserts.

Both faculty members have worked with the Gender in

Physics Working Group (GIPWG) of the Indian Physics Association.

To reach a wider audience, they reveal that they have conducted women-only workshops, using stories from the book to spark conversations, in order to make students aware of such scenarios, and encourage them to speak their mind. They also plan to translate the book into Hindi and Marathi. "It took us six to eight weeks to complete it, though the idea sparked a year ago," Professor Nanal recalls. "We've received a lot of positive feedback from readers who found the content relatable. That is what we intended: To showcase a serious topic through a light-hearted and simple medium," both sign off.

**FREE** LOG ON TO @tifrsience on Instagram (to scan the QR code and download the book)

# Breast Cancer Awareness: Early detection, better treatment, brighter outcomes

Breast cancer remains the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Indian women. Yet today, more women are surviving and living healthy, productive lives after treatment largely because of early detection and major advances in therapy. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a reminder that awareness, screening, and timely action are our strongest defences.

**Targeted therapies and affordable biosimilars have revolutionised breast cancer treatment in India. With improved access and effective neoadjuvant options, many women can undergo breast-conserving surgery and achieve better long-term recovery and quality of life.**



**Dr Aditi Agrawal**  
MS (Gen Surgery)  
Mch (Breast Oncoplasty)  
Consultant Breast Oncosurgeon

## Early Detection Saves Lives

Cancers detected at an early stage respond far better to treatment. They often require fewer aggressive procedures and offer a higher likelihood of long-term survival. Unfortunately, many women still reach hospitals with advanced disease because symptoms were dismissed or routine tests were delayed. Recognising changes in the breast and seeking timely medical help can make a

life-changing difference.

## Know the Warning Signs

Breast cancer is not always painful. Symptoms that require medical attention include:

- A new lump in the breast or armpit
- Changes in breast size, shape, or contour
- Dimpling or puckering of the skin
- Redness, swelling, or thickening of the breast
- Nipple discharge, especially if bloody
- A newly inverted nipple or persistent nipple rash

While these signs may occur due to non-cancer causes, they should always be evaluated by a doctor.

## Screening: A Powerful Preventive Tool

Routine screening can detect breast cancer before symptoms appear. For Indian women, the following is generally recommended:

- Monthly breast self-examination
- Annual clinical breast examination from age 30
- Mammography every 1-2

years after age 40, or earlier for high-risk women

Modern mammography is safe, quick, and capable of detecting small tumours early.

## Advances in Treatment: Targeted Therapy and Biosimilar

Breast cancer treatment has improved dramatically in the last decade. Apart from surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation, doctors now use targeted therapies medicines that attack specific cancer pathways with fewer side effects.

For example, women with HER2-positive breast cancer benefit greatly from drugs like trastuzumab and pertuzumab, which directly target the HER2 protein that drives tumour growth. These therapies have significantly improved survival and reduced the risk of the disease returning.

With neoadjuvant chemotherapy being offered to selected Her2neu positive cancer patients there is drastic reduction in size of tumour which makes these patients amenable to Breast Conservative surgery with oncoplastic reconstruction.

**Early detection through regular screening, self-examination, and timely medical attention greatly improves breast cancer outcomes. More women today survive and recover fully because cancers are being identified at earlier, more treatable stages.**

## Cost-Effective Options Are Expanding

Indian pharmaceutical companies are playing a key role in improving affordability. With more government hospitals and insurance schemes covering biosimilar-based treatment, patients now have access to evidence-based, economical choices. For many families, cost-effective therapy options mean faster treatment decisions and fewer financial barriers.

## A Call to Every Woman and Family

Breast cancer awareness is not just about pink ribbons it is about responsibility and proactive action. Speak openly about breast health, motivate loved ones to undergo routine check-ups, and consult a doctor immediately if you notice any unusual breast changes. Early detection, combined with evolving treatments and affordable biosimilar options, offers every woman a stronger chance of cure and a healthier future.

**For more details kindly contact: -  
Wockhardt Hospital (Mira Road) &  
Hiranandani Hospital (Powai), Mumbai.  
Call: 7304890386  
Email id: draditiagrawal@gmail.com**

## Tenders, Notices & Contracts

	<b>Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation</b>
<b>(Hydraulic Engineer's Department) (O.C. Division)</b>	
<b>No. Dy HE (M&amp;E) MIIIA / 4963 / PP dtd. 19.11.2025 e-TENDER NOTICE</b>	
The Commissioner of BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION invites online tender from the firms dealing in the line on item rate basis in three packet system for the work detailed below.	
<b>Department</b>	Hydraulic Engineer
<b>Section</b>	Dy. Hydraulic Engineer (M&E) M-3 A Pise-Panjarapur
<b>Mahatender Bid No.</b>	2025_MCGM_1247987
<b>Name of the Work</b>	Providing and testing of Portable trailer mounted 40 KVA DG set and 10 HP light weight heavy duty solid handling trolley mounted Diesel operated dewatering pump alongwith accessories for maintenance work of Pise Panjarapur Complex.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://mahatenders.gov.in">https://mahatenders.gov.in</a>
The tender document can be downloaded from the BMC website & <a href="https://mahatenders.gov.in">https://mahatenders.gov.in</a>	
<b>Sd/- (A.S. Bhoir) Dy. Hydraulic Engineer (M&amp;E) M-III A, Pise Panjarapur I/c</b>	
PRO / 2309 / ADV / 2025-26	
Let's together make Mumbai Malaria Free.	

	<b>Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation</b>	<b>E-TENDER NOTICE</b>
<b>Tender ID No.</b>	2025_MCGM_1248293_1	
<b>Name of Organization</b>	Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation	
<b>Subject</b>	Beautification of E & H Road below Princess Street Flyover at Marine Lines in 'C' Ward.	
<b>Tender fee</b>	Rs. 18150/- + 18% GST	
<b>Cost of E-Tender (Estimated cost)</b>	Rs. 20,44,5944.56	
<b>Bid Security Deposit / EMD</b>	Rs. 409000.00	
<b>Publishing Date &amp; Time</b>	21.11.2025 From 12:00 Hours	
<b>Document Download / Sale Start Date &amp; Time</b>	21.11.2025 From 12:00 Hours	
<b>Bid Submission Start Date &amp; Time</b>	21.11.2025 From 12:00 Hours	
<b>Bid Submission Closing Date &amp; Time</b>	28.11.2025 Upto 12:00 Hours	
<b>Bid Opening Date &amp; Time</b>	29.11.2025 After 12:00 Hours	
<b>Address for Communication</b>	Office of the Asst. Commissioner 'C' Ward, 76, Shrikant Palekar Marg, Chandanwadi, Main Lines (East), Mumbai - 400002. Email - ID : ac.c.@mcgm.gov.in	
<b>Website URL</b>	<a href="https://mahantenders.gov.in/nicgep/app">https://mahantenders.gov.in/nicgep/app</a>	
<b>Venue for opening of bid</b>	On line in Executive Engineer 'C' Ward's office.	
<b>This tender document is not transferable.</b>		
The BMC reserves the rights to accept any of all application or reject any or all the applications received for the above subject without assigning any reason thereof.		
<b>Sd/- Assistant Commissioner 'C' Ward</b>		
PRO / 2308 / ADV / 2025-26		
Let's together make Mumbai Malaria Free.		

TMC/PRO/Health/796/2025-26 Date 03/11/2025 Online E-Tender is invited by Public Health Department providing ambulance services within jurisdiction Thane Municipal Corporation area for the period of five years. First extension is given to this tender. Detail Tenders Notice & Tender Forms will be available on <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from Dt. 19/11/2025 to Dt. 25/11/2025 at 16.00 pm. Tender will be accepted on or before Dt. 25/11/2025 at 16.00 pm. as per E- Tendering Procedure. Tenders will be open on Dt. 26/11/2025 at 16.00 pm or any other day with prior intimation. If there will be any change in Tender, TMC will have rights to issue Corrigendum. It will be the responsibility of the bidder to submit the tender according to the corrigendum. Thane Municipal Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without giving reasons thereof.

TMC/PRO/Health/897/2025-26 SD/-  
Dated. 20/11/2025 Medical Officer of Health  
Pls visit our official web-site ThaneMunicipalCorporation  
[www.thanecity.gov.in](http://www.thanecity.gov.in)

South East Central Railway, Bilaspur Division

ANNEXURE-I

E-Auction has been invited for the leasing of parcel space in SLRs. The catalogue has already been published on the IREPS website (<https://ireps.gov.in>). The details are as follows:-

Catalogue No.: BSP PARCEL NOV., Category: Parcel, Auction Date & Time: 26.11.2025, 10:00, Lot No.: 18237-SLR-F1-KRBA ASR-25-1 (Parcel - SLR), 18247-SLR-R1-BSP-REWA-24-2(Parcel - SLR), 11202-SLR-R1-SDL- NGP-24-2(Parcel - SLR), 22619-SLR-R1-BSP- TEN-25-1, (Parcel - SLR), 18257-SLR-F1-BSP- CHRM-24-2, (Parcel - SLR), 22815-SLR-R1-BSP- ERS-25-1 (Parcel - SLR). Lot Description: "Parcel Space in SLR Coaching (Single Compartment, Contract Period: 03 year.

Asst. Comm. Manager (Goods)  
CPR/10/FL/466 S.E.C.Railway, Bilaspur

South East Central Railway @seccrail

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender No. W\_2\_623\_16\_SCOUR\_MLDT, dated : 19.11.2025. e-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Eastern Railway, Fairlie Place, 17, Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata - 700001 from reputed and eligible contractors for the under mentioned works : Name of the Works: Conducting continuous scour monitoring of foundations using Sonar Echo-Range technology by Armar Echo-Range SS510 smart sensor or similar equipment on Bridge No. 340/A, 383/D and 130 in Malda Division of Eastern Railway. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 63,27,520.41. Earnest Money: ₹ 1,26,600.00. Period of completion : 04 months. Date & time of closing of tender: 11.12.2025 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tender documents are available at website [https:// www.ireps.gov.in](https://www.ireps.gov.in) Tenderer are requested to submit their offer on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted.

MISC-296/2025-26  
Tender Notice is also available at websites : [www.er.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.er.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter



MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)

Extension Notice

E-Tender Notice No. 54/2025-2026 (Mumbai)

Vide above E Tender Notice, tender for following work were published in Daily Apala Mahanagar, Mumbai, Daily Mid Day, Mumbai, Daily Mumbai Tarunbharat, Mumbai, Daily Krishival, Raigad on 04/11/2025.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost
1	M&R to EDS in Roha Indl. Area.... Arresting online leakages of damaged HDPE pipeline joints on Effluent Disposal scheme.	₹ 38,70,349.00
2	DD - T.T.C. & KALWA... M&R to Streetlights in TTC Indl Area... Annual maintenance of streetlights over Mahape Flyover Bridge on Shil Mahape Road, Adivli Flyover bridge for 2 years period.	₹ 29,12,366.00

Now the Extension Notice is hereby issued for extending the date of availability of E Tender on website of <https://mahatenders.gov.in> for the above works.

The blank tender forms for above works will be available Upto 01/12/2025 on following website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

Please note that the bidders who have already submitted / uploaded their offer will again have to reload or resubmit their offer with or without change, such bidders shall also note that if offers is not reloaded or resubmitted, their bid will be out of completion for the this tender in particular.

Other contents of the tender notice remain unchanged.



MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)

Extension Notice

E-Tender Notice No. 52/2025-2026 (Mumbai)

Vide above E Tender Notice, tender for following work were published in Daily Navakal, Mumbai, Daily Apala Mahanagar, Mumbai, Daily Sagar, Thane, Daily Hindustan Times, Mumbai, Daily Mid Day, Mumbai, Daily Active Times, Mumbai, Daily Bhaskar, Mumbai, Daily Navakal, Mumbai on 04/11/2025.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost Rs. in Cr.
1	Construction of "Ratan Tata Udyog Bhavan" MIDC (HQ) along with Printing Press Building for Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation on Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode.	₹ 903.08

Now the Extension Notice is hereby issued for extending the date of availability of E Tender, raising of queries and reply to queries on website of <https://mahatenders.gov.in> for the above works.

The blank tender forms for above works will now be available upto 13/01/2026 on website of <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Interested agencies may upload their queries before 11/12/2025 on above website. Pre bid meeting for work will be conducted on 15/01/2026 at 12.00 PM in the office of the Chief Engineer (HQ), Udyog Sarthi MIDC Mariol Industrial Area Mumbai-93. Answers to the queries / MIDC Clarification will be available from 24/12/2025 on above website.

Please note that the bidders who have already submitted / uploaded their offer will again have to reload or resubmit their offer with or without change, such bidders shall also note that if offers is not reloaded or resubmitted, their bid will be out of completion for the this tender in particular.

Other contents of the tender notice remain unchanged.

Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation, Jalgaon

(Undertaking of Maharashtra Govt.)

Jalgaon Irrigation Division Jalgaon

Email : eejidjal@gmail.com

e-Tender Notice No. /19/For 2025-26

E-Tenders for following works are invited by Executive Engineer, Jalgaon Irrigation Division, Jalgaon in B-1 Form from "Competent Contractor / agencies are not allowed to make any changes in tender documents downloaded from website Tender Notice, Detailed Tender Notice and Blank Tender Forms are available @ web site <http://mahatenders.gov.in>

Blank Tender forms will be available on above Govt. website from 21/11/2025 (10.00 Hrs.) to 28/11/2025 (18.15 Hrs.) While submitting the tender document, Tender Fee and EMD to be deposited by online gateway payment.

The scan copy of receipt of above details are required to be uploaded along with tender. Tender will be online opened in the office of Executive Engineer, Jalgaon Irrigation Division, Jalgaon if possible on 01/12/2025 (11.00) and No pre-bid meeting shall be held for this work. Contractor should be present on date and time of opening of tender. Any complaint after opening of tender will not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost Rs.	Cost put to Tender Rs.	Time Limit	EMD Rs.	Blank Tender Fee	Contractors Class
1	Repairs to Structures of L.B.C. & R.B.C. of Shevga M. I. Tank Taluka Jamner Dist. Jalgaon.	Rs. 2,99,48,900/-	Rs. 2,92,41,303/- (Cost Excluding GST, Insurance etc)	12 Calendar Months (Including Monsoon)	150000	2360/-	Competent Contractor / agencies

Note :- Tender documents will not be sold on accepted on this office. If you have any queries / questions, please contact us at (0120-4001002, 4001005, 6277787).

- Right to cancel all or any of these tenders is reserved by the competent authority. Post-qualification condition as per criteria mentioned in main tender.

Sd/-

(A. G. Kulkarni)

Executive Engineer, Jalgaon Irrigation Division, Jalgaon.

DGIPR / 2025 / 2026 / 4126



जाहिरात क्र 2/1283 दि. २०/११/२०२५

निविदा प्रक्रिया कक्ष  
फेर निविदा जाहिरात

विक्री कालावधी दिनांक :- २१/११/२०२५ ते २८/११/२०२५ दुपारी १२.३० पर्यंत

स्वीकृती दिनांक :- २१/११/२०२५ ते २८/११/२०२५ दुपारी १२.३० पर्यंत तांत्रिक निविदा उघडणे प्रक्रिया दिनांक: ०१/१२/२०२५ दु.१२.३०.

अ. क्र.	निविदा क्रमांक	खात्याचे नाव	कामाचे नाव	निविदा संच किंमत रु.	अंदाजित पूर्वगणित रक्कम रु	बयाणा रक्कम रु.	कामाची मुदत	निविदा विषयक जबाबदार व्यक्तीचे नाव व दूरध्वनी क्रमांक
१	PMC/GARDEN /2025 /161	उद्यान विभाग	पुणे शहरातील उद्यानात परिमंडळ क्र. २ मध्ये केंद्र सरकारच्या स्व च्छ पार्क अभियानांतर्गत उपाययोजना करणे.	1359.00	2871327.00	28713.00	12 महिने	श्री. राऊत ९८२२०६६४६४
२	PMC/GARDEN /2025 /162	उद्यान विभाग	पुणे शहरातील उद्यानात परिमंडळ क्र. १ मध्ये केंद्र सरकारच्या स्व च्छ पार्क अभियानांतर्गत उपाययोजना करणे.	1359.00	2871327.00	28713.00	12 महिने	श्रीम. आढाव ९६८९९९०१०७
३	PMC/GARDEN /2025 /164	उद्यान विभाग	पुणे शहरातील उद्यानात परिमंडळ क्र. ३ मध्ये केंद्र सरकारच्या स्व च्छ पार्क अभियानांतर्गत उपाययोजना करणे.	1359.00	2871327.00	28713.00	12 महिने	श्री. पवन करांडे ८७७९२४१४७६

अ) पुणे म.न.पा. ची बरील कामे ही अनुभवी / म.न.पा. मान्यता प्राप्त / शासन मान्यता प्राप्त ठेकेदारांकडून (कामा साठीच्या पुर्व पात्रता अटी टेंडर सेट मध्ये नमुद केल्यानुसार) करून घ्यावयाची आहेत.

ब) सदर कामांबाबत निविदा अटी / शर्ती इ. बाबतचा सर्व तपशिल निविदा संचामध्ये नमूद केला असून सदर कामांचे निविदा संच [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) या वेबसाईटवर पाहण्यासाठी उपलब्ध आहे. निविदा संचाची विक्री व स्विकृती सदर वेबसाईटवरून फक्त ऑनलाईन पद्धतीने करण्यात येत असून सर्व निविदा दोन पाकिट पद्धतीने मागविण्यात येत आहेत.

क) कार्यालयीन आदेश क्र. अतिमआ (वि.) / ३२ दिनांक २२/०४/२०१६ नुसार बयाणा रक्कम ऑनलाईन सुविधेमार्फतच स्विकारणेत येणार आहे

सही/-

(अशोक घोरपडे)

मुख्य उद्यान अधिक्षक

पुणे महानगरपालिका

**WESTERN RAILWAY**

Senior Divisional Commercial - Manager, Mumbai Central Division, Western Railway  
Divisional Railway Manager, Commercial Department, NFR section, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008.

**Work - Display of Advertisement through various NFR media over Mumbai Division.**

Auction Catalogue No.		Auction Start (All Lots)	
MMCT-ADVTM25-39		08-12-25 14:00:00	

Sr. No.	Lot No	Location / Area	Days	Close Date & Time of e-Auction
1	MSS-BCT-PLG-PrKiosk-53-25-1 (Misc-Static-Services - Promotional Kiosk)	E-auction for contract of commercial advertisement through Promotional Kiosk / Product Display at Palghar (PLG) & Boisar (BOR) stations for a period of Three years.	1096	08-12-25 14:30:00

Auction Catalogue No.		Auction Start (All Lots)	
MMCT-ADVT-25-56		08-12-25 15:00:00	

Sr. No.	Lot No	Location / Area	Days	Close Date & Time of e-Auction
1	ADVT-BCT-MMCT-OH-430-25-1 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Bulk rights for display of advertisement through installation of 28 LED Unipoles at MMCT East for a period of 05 years.	1826	08-12-25 15:30:00
2	ADVT-BCT-BYR-OSN-429-25-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising rights at Bhayandar (BYR) station on Foot over bridges (FOBs) for a period of Three years.	1096	08-12-25 15:40:00
3	ADVT-BCT-BYR-OSN-437-25-2 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Bhayandar station on New South FOB for a period of 3 years.	1096	08-12-25 15:50:00

Contact details: Landline no.: 02267644212. Email ID: acmadvtgcbct@gmail.com Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The lot wise details are available there in under the mentioned catalogue. **0803**

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) • Follow us on: [X.com/WesternRly](https://www.x.com/WesternRly)



मुख्य कार्यालय, विरार  
विरार (पूर्व), ता. वसई,  
जि.पालघर- ४०१३०३.

दुरध्वनी : ०२५० - ६६३००००/२५२७१०८  
टोल फ्री क्र. : १८००२३३४३५३  
ई-मेल : vasaivirarcorporation@yahoo.com  
जा.क्र. : वविशम/मु. विद्युत /१०९० / २०२५  
दिनांक : २०/११/२०२५

**ई - निविदा सूचना क्र. १४ (२०२५ २०२६) (प्रथम फेरनिविदा)**

म्हाडा गृहनिर्माण संकुल परिसरातील नादुरुस्त केबल बदली करणे तसेच परिवहन भवन तथा प्रशासकीय इमारतीकडे व विरार गार्डन - म्हाडा गृहनिर्माण संकुल जोडणारा ब्रीजवर सार्वजनिक दिवाबत्ती व्यवस्था करणेकरीता निविदा सूचना व निविदा प्रपत्र <https://mahatenders.gov.in> या शासनाच्या अधिकृत संकेतस्थळावर दि. २१/११/२०२५ पासून उपलब्ध होणार आहे.

निविदेबाबत सूचना व शुद्धीपत्रक असल्यास <https://mahatenders.gov.in> या शासनाच्या अधिकृत संकेतस्थळावर प्रसिद्ध करणेत येईल.

सही/-  
(अमोल जाधव)  
प्र. कार्यकारी अभियंता (विद्युत)  
वसई-विरार शहर महानगरपालिका

 **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation**

**Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer (Roads) Western Suburbs**

2nd Floor, A wing, Sanskruti Complex MCGM Godown Building, 90 feet D. P. Road, Mumbai - 400 101.

**E-Tender Notice**

<b>Tender Document Number</b>	2025_MCGM_1248725_1
<b>Subject</b>	<b>W-407</b> : Improvement of internal road in Cement Concrete near newly constructed shed for fleet of vehicles of main sewer and silt drying system at Versova pumping station, Versova Pumping Station, Andheri West) <b>Cost of E-Tender (Estimated Cost) - Rs. 2,13,50,246.00/-</b>
<b>Tender scrutiny fee</b>	<b>Rs. 18,150.00/- + 18% GST</b>
<b>Bid Security Deposit / EMD</b>	Rs. 2,13,600.00
<b>Mahatender Portal</b>	<a href="http://mahatenders.gov.in">http://mahatenders.gov.in</a>
<b>Date of issue and sale of tender</b>	21.11.2025 at 11.00 Hrs. onwards
<b>Last date &amp; time for sale of tender</b>	28.11.2025 at 16.00 Hrs. onwards
<b>Submission of Packet A, B &amp; Packet C (Online)</b>	28.11.2025 at 16.00 Hrs. onwards
<b>Opening of Packet A</b>	01.12.2025 at 16.10 Hrs. onwards
<b>Opening of Packet B</b>	01.12.2025 at 16.20 Hrs. onwards.
<b>Address for Communication for work of Sr. No. 1 in subject</b>	Office of the Dy.Ch.E. (Roads)WS, A-Wing, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Municipal Godown Building, 90. Feet Road, Sanskruti Complex, Kandivali (East), Mumbai-400101. <b>(email - dychews01.roads@mcmg.gov.in)</b> Telephone No: (022 20891350/20890553)
<b>Venue for opening</b>	Office of Dy. Ch. Eng. (Roads) W.S.

**The bidders are requested to note the following :**

- This is three (3) packets tender. Packet 'A' & 'B' will be considered as "Technical Bid" and packet 'C' will be considered as "Financial Bid."
- In case any difficulties faced while uploading data by the bidder in online process, bidder can contact on following Email id and telephone no.  
IT help desk no. - 022-24811275 / 290  
E-mail id - [mahatenders.it@mcmg.gov.in](mailto:mahatenders.it@mcmg.gov.in)  
This tender document is not transferable  
E-Tender is available on e-procurement system of Government of Maharashtra (Mahatenders) (<http://mahatenders.gov.in>) also the information regarding above subject matter is also available on BMC portal. (<http://portal.mcmg.gov.in/tenders>).  
The BMC reserves the right to accept any of the application or reject any or all the application received for above subject without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
(Shri Sanjay Borse)  
Dy. Ch. Eng. (Roads) W.S

PRO / 2324 / ADV / 2025-26

Keep the terraces clean, remove odd articles/junk/scrap.

 **पनवेल महानगरपालिका, पनवेल**

ई-निविदा सूचना क्र : पमपा/ उद्यान / २२२५/प्र.क्र.०९/६८४/२०२५  
दिनांक: २०/११/२०२५

अ.क्र.	कामाचे नाव	निविदा क्र.	इसारा रक्कम रुपये	कामाचा कालावधी
१.	पनवेल महानगरपालिका हद्दीतील उद्यानांचे संगोपण करणेकरीता आवश्यक साहित्यासह मनुष्यबळ पुरवठा करणेबाबत.	PMC / Garden /08/2025-26	१२,७३,००,०००/-	३ वर्षे

या कामाच्या ई-निविदेबाबतची माहिती शासनाच्या <https://mahatenders.gov.in> या संकेतस्थळावर दिनांक २१/११/२०२५ रोजी प्रसिद्ध करण्यात येणार आहे. संबंधित निविदाधारकांनी याची नोंद घ्यावी.

Sd/-  
अतिरीक्त आयुक्त I,  
पनवेल महानगरपालिका, पनवेल

 **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation**

**Planning Department Public Notice**

**Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Operation and Maintenance of Female Student Hostels within the Municipal Corporation Area**

Under the Gender Budget of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), various initiatives are being undertaken by the Director (Planning) Department for the empowerment and socio-economic development of women and children. Mumbai is a metropolitan city enriched with opportunities in education, industry, and employment. Every year, a large number of students from within Maharashtra as well as from other states come to the city for higher education, vocational training, competitive examinations, and skill development.

Providing safe, clean, and affordable accommodation for these students particularly female students remains a significant challenge. Ensuring a conducive environment, safety, nutritious food, and essential study-related facilities is crucial for their academic progress and overall mental and social development. In this context, it is proposed to operate and manage Student Hostels for female students above the age of 18 years. Under this initiative, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai intends to select eligible institutions/agencies to operate and manage the Student Hostels for female students above the age of 18 years located at Kandivali (East), Akurli Village, in the R/Central Ward. Accordingly, an Expression of Interest (EOI) document has been published on the official website of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai at: <http://portal.mcmg.gov.in>

The document can be accessed under the following navigation path: About Us --> Wards/Departments --> Department Manuals --> Assistant Commissioner (Planning) --> Documents --> EOI for Operation and Management of student Hostel for female Students Above 18 Years"

Interested and eligible institutions/agencies are required to submit the proposal strictly in the prescribed format along with all necessary details as mentioned in the EOI document. The Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, reserves the right to reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason.

PRO / 2317 / ADV / 2025-26

Sd/-  
Director (Planning)

Avoid Self Medication



**Discover the Colour, Craft, Culture, & Flavours  
of Western India in Hyderabad**



**Bharatiya  
Kala Mahotsav**

22<sup>nd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> NOV, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
Rashtrapati Nilayam Bolarum, Secunderabad

Inauguration by  
**Smt. Droupadi Murmu**  
Hon'ble President of India



**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025 | Time: 04:00 PM**  
**Venue: Rashtrapati Nilayam Bolaram, Secunderabad**

**Program Highlights**

- Authentic traditional cuisines
- Live demonstrations of traditional handicrafts
- GI products of Western India on display
- Ethnic handlooms and fabrics
- Cultural program by indigenous communities
- Exotic Tourism

**FREE  
ENTRY**



**SCAN TO  
REGISTER**



For More Details: [www.visit.rashtrapatibhavan.gov.in](http://www.visit.rashtrapatibhavan.gov.in)

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**VARIOUS WORKS**

**OPEN TENDER NOTICE No: DRM WNGP-84-2025 OF 19.11.2025.**  
**Name of work:** 1. Proposal for major repairs of Railway quarters such as Repairs to Doors & windows, chajja, water supply, leaky roof, drainage, sanitation, Painting, repairs to kitchen otta, Road repairs in Amla-Narkher Section under sub division ADEN AMLA. 2. Repairs and maintenance of Service Building in Amla-Narkher section under ADEN Amla sub-division. 3. Proposal for painting, repairs to tiles in toilet bathroom & dining hall, 14nos. of aluminum bed partition for isolation at 1st floor and repair to sewage & drainage system in running room AMLA under sub division ADEN AMLA. **Approximate cost:** Rs. 3,91,87,893.52. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 3,45,900/-. **Date & time of closing of tender 11.12.2025 15:00 Hrs.** Complete details and instructions for e-tendering and on-line participation for the above work is available on Railway's website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Divisional Railway Manager (Works),  
AK/314 Central Railway, Nagpur  
Traveling with dangerous and explosive goods is a punishable offense

**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. DSTE/CO/Kota for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites e-tenders against **Tender No. KOTA/SNT/SIG/2025/36** Due date to open mentioned below. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. (1) **Tender No.:** KOTA/SNT/SIG/2025/36 **Name of Work:** S&T Work in connection with "Kushtala Bypass connection with DN main Line. **Approx. Cost of the work:** ₹ 11478147.16/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 207400/- **Last Date & Time for Submission and opening of Tender:** 15:00 hrs. on Date 18.12.2025. The Tenders can be viewed at website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The tenderer/ bidders must have class III Digital signature certificate & must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidders can participate in e-tendering. Also should have valid GSTIN. (SD.)

Sr. DSTE/Co.  
West Central Railway, Kota Division  
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान  
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर



**Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation**

City Engineering Department  
Re-Tender Notice No. NMMCC/E/309/2025-26

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)
1	Providing and Fixing FRP Railing in Divider from Kopari Signal to Palm Beach Galaria Mall and K Star Hotel to Arenja Corner, Palm Beach Road in Vashi Ward	₹.99,38,488/-
2	Providing and Fixing FRP Railing in between Road Divider from Bikanerwala Sweet to Satara Plaza Adjacent to Palm Beach Road in Vashi.	₹.42,23,857/-
3	Providing and Fixing FRP Railing in Jogging Track at Sector 12 Vashi.	₹.32,47,196/-

Tender booklets will be available on e-tendering computer system at <https://mahatenders.gov.in> on Dt-21/11/2025. The tender is to be submitted online at <https://mahatenders.gov.in> for any technical difficulties in the e-tendering process, please contact the help desk number given on this website.

The right to accept or reject any tender is reserved by the Hon'ble Commissioner of Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation

Sign/-  
City Engineer

NMMCPRAAdv/800/2025 Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation

**MUMBAI SLUM  
IMPROVEMENT BOARD**

A REGIONAL UNIT OF

(MAHARASHTRA HOUSING  
AND AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY)

Tel no. - 022-66405484, E-mail - [eecityslum@gmail.com](mailto:eecityslum@gmail.com)

Ref. No. EE/City/MSIB / e-tender / 72 / 2025-26

**e-TENDER NOTICE No. 72**

Executive Engineer (City) Division, Mumbai Slum Improvement Board (Unit of MHADA), Room No. 539, 4th floor, Griha Nirman Bhavan, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051 Phone Number (022) 66405484 is inviting Open / Regular e-Tender for the 19 number of works in the form of B-1 (Percentage Rate) from the Registered contractors in the corresponding appropriate class of contractor or any Govt. / Semi Govt. organization, via online e-tendering system. The detailed tender notice and Tender Documents shall be available & can be downloaded from Government of Maharashtra portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. Bidding documents can be loaded on the website. The tender Document sale start on date 24/11/2025, 10.05 am to Document sale end date 02/12/2025, 15.00 pm. Corrigendum / Amendments if any could be published only on the <https://mahatenders.gov.in> website. The Competent Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason there of Conditional offers will not be accepted.

Follow us: @mhadaofficial  
f i t x in

MHADA - Leading Housing Authority in the Nation

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer (City),  
M. S I B Board, Mumbai  
CPRO/A/1003

**TENDERS & NOTICES**

FOR DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED TENDER & NOTICE ADS CONTACT

Vinayak 9819512366 • Sandesh 9819316694

Ravi 9869993858



A quality product from  
**RANGOON**  
Chemical Works Pvt. Ltd.



**Dard Mitaye...  
Hansi Lautaye...**

Relief from Headache | Joint | Muscle  
Backache | Knee | Ankle Pain and Cold.

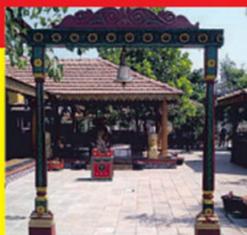


Trusted  
for over 60 years

Customer Care: +91 8140940090 @ sales@rangoonchemicals.com www.rangoonchemicals.com Distributor for Maharashtra: Shreeji Associates - 022 40042078

## Holidays And Resorts

### THE KINARA VILLAGE LONAVALA



**DELICIOUS FOOD**  
**HERITAGE AMBIENCE**  
**HERITAGE ROOMS AVAILABLE**

Addr. : Old Mumbai - Pune Highway, Vaksai Naka, Varsoli, Lonavala - 410401  
Call : 9859639639 www.thekinaravillage.com

## Hot Property

**READY POSSESSION 5400 SQ. FT.  
PRE LEASE COMMERCIAL PREMISES ON 1st Floor**  
**FOR SALE**  
**YASHWANT HEIGHTS SHOPS  
DAHISAR (WEST) SHOWROOM  
OFFICES**  
**Opp Railway Station Ticket Window  
Suitable For : Bank, Medical Center,  
Offices, Showroom, Mnc's,  
Financial Institution,  
Corporate House Etc**  
**Project is Financed by: SWAMIH INVESTMENT FUND I**  
**Site: 99305 73939 / 99306 69211**  
**5400 sq. ft. Nursing Home Plan Pass  
With Separate Entrance & Stretcher lift**

## 162 • Marketing And Sales

**GARMENT/ Textile  
Accessories Mfg** company  
requires: Field Sales Executive for  
Apparel Industry. Walk-in at  
Focus, 22(A)1, Hakoba  
Compound, Kalachowkie,  
Chinchpokli. 5 min walking from  
Chinchpokli & Cotton Green stn.  
Tel: 7045333202 [30860137]

**ESTATE Agent- South Mumbai**  
requires Young Field Salesmen,  
age 20- 40, on Commission+  
Salary. 9821074887. [30860218]

## 165 • Multiple Vacancies

**REQUIRED Male/ Female**  
Accountant and IT Junior  
Engineer for Stock Broking firm  
in Santacruz West. Contact:  
9773156421 Email resume on  
pjbbackoffice@gmail.com  
[30860196]

## 188 • Supervisors

**WATERPROOFING: Require**  
Fresh/ Experienced Site  
Supervisory with Civil  
knowledge for waterproofing  
projects. Shadab Khan:  
9322652553.  
kemould11@hotmail.com  
[30859940]

## PROPERTY

### Accommodation Available

### 212 • South Mumbai

**"RUPAREL Nova"- Parel- 1**  
BHK compact 400' for Rent  
55,000 Negotiable- 32 Floor.  
Ready Possession, Electric Fan,  
LED Light. Video on Request.  
Owner: 9920655056 /9821036552.  
[30860343]

**"LODHA Park Allura"- 2 Bed**  
Rent Fully Furnished, 2.25 lakhs,  
3 Bed Semi Furnished 2.35 lakhs-  
Ready Possession. SFRC  
Shradha 9920655056/ Ashok  
9821036552. [30860334]

**CIVIL contractor** New building  
construction in Mumbai for  
builder, self redevelopment  
society, contractor required.  
Contact- 9224341696 [30860287]

## CAREERS

### Situation Vacant

**REQUIRED urgently: Female**  
Executive Secretary for  
Maharashtra State Women's  
Council, an NGO. Qualification:  
Graduate with 5 years of  
experience, Age above 30 yrs.  
Computer skills fluency in  
English is essential. Salary  
negotiable. Drop your Resume  
on headoffice@mswcindia.org or  
Call 8655404818/ 8655404819  
[30860298]

**LOGISTICS Company** required  
1) Data Entry staff 2) Pick up  
Delivery/ Staff for Mumbai/  
Bhiwandi 3) Night/ Day  
Operation Staff. 4) EDP Incharge.  
Walk-in an interview between  
(12- 5 pm.) Unique Air Freight,  
2A, Planet Industrial Estate, Opp  
United Ink, off Subhash Road,  
Vile Parle (East) [30860136]

**REQUIRED Experienced**  
Salesman, Master For  
Readymade Menswear Retail  
Showroom In Malad-  
Borivali- Contact: 1,  
Landmark Building, Near  
Ganjawala Petrol Pump,  
Borivali (West)- 9819086751  
[30859671]

## Remembrance

### 93<sup>rd</sup> Birth Anniversary 21st November 2025



We devote ourselves to his values, aspirations,  
principles and dedication

**Dr. DATTA SAMANT** FOUNDER, PRESIDENT

#### FONDLY REMEMBERED BY

- KAMGAR AGHADI • BEST KAMGAR UNION
- ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING WORKERS
- MAHARASHTRA GENERAL KAMGAR UNION
- MAHARASHTRA GIRNI KAMGAR UNION
- DR. DATTA SAMANT SMARAK SAMITHI

PRESIDENT - BHUSHAN SAMANT  
GEN. SECRETARY - VARGHESE CHACKO  
GEN. SECRETARY - SANJAY KOLWANKAR  
GEN. SECRETARY - J. P. BHILARE  
TREASURER - BABY PAUL

STAFF & ASSOCIATES OF DR. DATTA SAMANT UNION

The Readers are recommended to make appropriate inquiry before sending money, incurring any expenses or entering into any commitment in relation to any Advertisement published in this publication. Midday Infomedia Limited does not vouch for any claims made by the advertisers of products and services. The Directors, Key Managerial Personnel, Printer, Publisher & Editor of Midday Infomedia Limited shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers. MIDDAY INFOMEDIA LIMITED

## TRAVEL

### Holidays And Resorts

### 415 • Tours And Travels

**FREE Mahabaleshwar tour** of 4  
days for Senior Citizens above 65  
years of age will be departing  
every day. For more information  
please contact Smt. Kumud  
Hitesh Chunilal Popatlal Gutka  
on Mobile No. +91-9867977442  
Inquiry only by WhatsApp (No  
Phone Calls) [30841483]

## NOTICES

### Tenders

**INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  
**SAIFEE PARK TOWER-2**  
**CO-OP. HSG. SOC. LTD.**  
**MAZGAON, MUMBAI-400010.**

Invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from  
experienced, reputed, and financially sound  
contractors/agencies for Repair And Painting  
Work of its society building. Applicants must  
meet the following minimum criteria:

- ELIGIBILITY:**
- Proprietor/Partner/Director preferably  
a Civil Engineer.
  - Minimum 3 completed projects  $\geq$   
₹ 5 Cr each (FY 2021-22 to 2023-24).
  - GST-registered, PAN, full statutory &  
labour compliance.
  - Registered office within the MMR region.

- MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:**
- Company profile & registration details.
  - Technical staff list & infrastructure.
  - Completed and ongoing project list with  
values.
  - Work orders / completion certificates  
/ client references.
  - Audited financials & ITRs (last 3 years).
  - Safety compliance declaration.

**EVALUATION:**  
Based on technical capability, past  
performance, financial capacity, statutory  
compliance and presentation before the  
Managing Committee. The Society/Consultant  
reserves the right to reject any or all  
EOI applications without assigning any  
reason thereof.

**SUBMISSION:**  
Send sealed envelopes marked "EOI  
Repairs & Painting Works, Saifee Park  
Tower-2 CHSL" to the Consultant, on or  
before 29.11.2025

**LAKHANI DESIGNS PVT. LTD.**  
CIN: U74120MH2011PTC223467  
Reg. Office: 611, Veena Killedar Ind. Est.,  
10-14, Pais Street, Opp. Planet Godrej,  
Byculla (W), Mumbai-400011.  
email: naz@lakhanidesign.com  
Phone: 49786426  
Cell: 8779472813, 8097409994

**Change Of Name**

I have changed my name Pramila Suresh to Pramila Suresh Solanki as per Maharashtra Gazette Copy No. M- 25272054. Dated: 05/11/2025. [30860319]

**Tenders**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed item rate tenders are invited from reputed contractors for repairs, waterproofing, plumbing, & painting work of: **GOKUL VRINDAVAN CHS LTD.**

Opp Asian Bakery, Iraniwadi Shantilal Modi cross road no 2, Kandivali West, Mumbai - 400067

Blank Tender forms are available from

**21/11/2025 to 29/11/2025**

at Consultant's office from

**10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

**Tender Cost: ₹8,000/-**

**(Non-Refundable)**

Submission In the Society Office:

**01/12/2025 before 6:00 p.m.**

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT**

**RENOWISE CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Office No 203, Gayatri Niwas Apts, Iraniwadi, Shantilal Modi Road No 2, Kandivali West, Mumbai-400067.

**Mob.: 9222212231/8850003178**

30860308

**Tenders**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed item rate tenders are invited from the registered, reputed competitive contractors for the Proposed Repairs and Painting work of

**The VRUNDA'S RESIDENCY C.H.S. LTD.**  
OPP. GOD'S GIFT TOWER, YARI ROAD, VERSOVA GAOTHAN, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI- 400 061"

A set of Blank Tender forms is available in the office of

**M/S. RNR CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Unit No. 36, 1st floor, BMC market, Above Devine Banquet Hall, opp. Phoenix Hospital, Chikuwadi

Borivali (W), Mumbai - 400092.

From 24/11/2025 to 01/12/2025

(Contact: 8451826688)

Timing: 11:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Cost of Tender: Rs.4,000/- only in cash (Non -Refundable)

Date of submission 03/12/2025 in the Office of The VRUNDA'S RESIDENCY

C.H.S. LTD.,

Timing: 10:30 am to 2:30 pm.

30860328

**Tenders, Notices & Contracts**

**KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of India Undertaking)

**NOTICE INVITING OPEN-E-TENDER DATED 21/11/2025**

On behalf of Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd, Senior Regional Engineer, Ratnagiri is inviting Open E Tender For the following work.

**Sr. No. 1, Name of the work** - Loose scaling in various cutting under SSE/Vilwade section from Km 226/500 to 267/000. **Tender Notice No: KR-RN-W-2025-67, Estimated cost - ₹ 25,40,538/-, EMD - ₹ 50,800/-, Last date and Time of depositing of tender on line - 16/12/2025 upto 15.00 hrs**

**Sr. No. 2, Name of the work** - Loose scaling in various cutting under SSE/Vilwade and SSE/Kankawali section from Km 267/000 to Km 378/100. **Tender Notice No: KR-RN-W-2025-68, Estimated cost - ₹ 25,66,928/-, EMD - ₹ 51,300/-, Last date and Time of depositing of tender on line - 16/12/2025 upto 15.00 hrs**

For further details, contact office of Regional Railway Manager, Office, MIDC area, Mirjole, Ratnagiri. (Website: <https://www.ireps.gov.in>)

**South East Central Railway**

**Bilaspur Division** **Annexure-A**

**Work Description:** E-auction for "License for Operation and Maintenance of PMBJK outlet at Naila (NIA) Railway stations for a period of Three (03) years." E-Auction has been invited for "License for Operation and Maintenance of PMBJK outlet at Naila (NIA) Railway stations for a period of Three (03) years." The catalogue has already been published on the IREPS Website (<https://ireps.gov.in>) on dated: **18.11.2025**. The details are as follows-

Catalogue No.	Category	Auction Date & Time	Lot No.	Lot Description	Contract Period
PMBJK-NIA-3-25	(PMBJK-Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras)	04-12-25 13:30:00	BSP-NIA-PMBJK-1-25-1 PMBJK	"License for Operation and Maintenance of PMBJK outlet at Naila (NIA) Railway stations for a period of Three (03) years."	1096 Days

Asst. Comml. Manager (Goods-II) SECR, Bilaspur

CPR/10/AM/472 **South East Central Railway** **@secrail**

**mid-day classifieds**

**FOR ATTRACTIVE ADVERTISEMENT IN CLASSIFIEDS RETAIL/NOTICE/ EVENTS & EXHIBITION CATEGORY**

**CONTACT**

**Vidhichand Chauhan**  
9870443505  
Or log on to [www.middayclassifieds.com](http://www.middayclassifieds.com)



**Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation**

**Department : Chief Engineer (Mechanical & Electrical)**

**No. E. E. Mech. / EI / 5283 / Maint dtd. 20.11.2025**

**E-Tender Notice.**

The Commissioner of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation invites online tenders for the following works from the eligible bidders. The Bid start date and time and Bid End Date and Time is specified in the detailed tender notice on e-procurement system of Government of Maharashtra (Mahatenders) / B.M.C.'s website under Tender Section.

Sr. No.	Bid No.	Name of the Work
1.	2025_MCGM_1249015_1	Providing engineering facility management services at various departments of M.T. Agarwal Hospital.

The intending tenderers shall visit the e-procurement system of Government of Maharashtra (Mahatenders) (<http://mahatenders.gov.in>) and BMC website at <http://portal.mcgm.gov.in> for further details of the tender.

**PRO / 2327 / ADV / 2025-26**

**Fever? Act now, see your doctor for correct & complete treatment**

**Sd/-**

**E. E. Mech. (EI) Maint**



**Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation**

**No. DY CHE / 338 / MC / BP City Dated 31/10/25 PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 297(l) (b) of Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act 1888 (as mentioned up to date) that, the undersigned proposes to apply to the Municipal Corporation at their meeting to be held after 30 days from display of this public notices or such day thereafter, as the said application can conveniently be disposed off for authority to accept proposed 9.15 mt. wide Regular line to existing 6. 10 mtr. (20) wide Road in Worli Hill Estate Scheme no 58 known as 'Subhedar nagar Lane' located between Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan road and Worli Hill road in G/South Ward, Mumbai.

The road under reference is existing 6. 10 mtr. (20) wide Road in Worli Hill Estate Scheme no 58 known as Subhedar nagar Lane' located between Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan road and Worli Hill road and same is proposed to be widened to 9.15 mt. under section 297(1)(b) of MMC Act (as mentioned upto datc), as per Note-I of Regulation 19(3) of DCPR 2034 and as per subsequent order of Hon'ble Municipal Commissioner U/ no ChE/DP/73/Gen /2019-20 directing to widen the roads of width less than 9.00m. to 9.00m. and above as per site condition through MR&TP Act or MMC Act 1888.

The proposed alignment of 9.15 mt. wide RL is as shown on plan, which is in principally approved by Hon. Municipal Commissioner vide approval under No MCP/7401 dated 13.10.2025. The alignment of existing 6.10 mtr. (20) wide Road in Worli Hill Estate Scheme no 58 known as 'Subhedar nagar Lane' located between Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan road and Worli Hill road is shown in Red Colour and prop0scd alignment of 9.15 mt. RL to be prescribed is shown in Green Colour on plan to be displayed at the office of Asstt. Commissioner G/South ward (BMC), N.M. Joshi Marg, Mumbai-400013 8 Asstt. Engincer (Survey) City, Office of the Dy. Ch.E. (Building Proposal) City, Walmiki Chowk, Vidyalkar College Marg, Wadala (E) Mumbai-400037.

Any person desirous of making any representation to the Corporation or of bringing before the Corporation any suggestion / objection in respect of the said proposal may do so by letter addressed Dy. Ch. E. (Building Proposal) City, Walmiki Chowk, Vidyalkar College Marg, Wadala (E), Mumbai-400037 or Asstt. Commissioner G/South ward (BMC), N.M. Joshi Marg, Mumbai-400013 and deliver at the said office within one month from the publication of this notice. The letter received after such datc, cannot be considered, which please be noted.

**PRO / 2336 / ADV / 2025-26**

**Sd/-**

**Dy. Chief Engineer (Building Proposal) City**

**Fever? Act now, see your doctor for correct & complete treatment**

**MUMBAI SLUM IMPROVEMENT BOARD**

**A REGIONAL UNIT OF (MAHARASHTRA HOUSING AND AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY)**

Tel. No. 022 - 66405432 , Email - [eewest.msib@mhada.gov.in](mailto:eewest.msib@mhada.gov.in)

**Ref No. EE/West/MSIB/e-Tender / 224 / 2025 - 26**

**e-TENDER NOTICE No. 224**

Executive Engineer (West) Division, Mumbai Slum Improvement Board, (Unit of MHADA) Room No. 537, 4th floor, Griha Nirman Bhavan, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400051 Phone Number (022) 66405432 is inviting Open Tender / Regular e-Tender for the 1 number of work in the form of B1 (Percentage Rate) from the contractors registered with PWD / MHADA / CPWD / CIDCO / MES / MJP / MIDC / Indian Railway / BPT / MCGM in the corresponding appropriate class of contractor or any Govt. / Semi Govt. organization, via online e-tendering system. The detailed Tender Documents shall be available & can be downloaded from Government of Maharashtra portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. Bidding documents can be loaded on the website. The tender schedule as follows.

Sr. No.	Stage Dese.	Date of time period	Sr. No.	Stage Dese.	Date of time period
1	Documents Sale start	20/11/2025 10.30 am	2	Pre Bid meeting	28/11/2025 3.30 pm
3	Documents sale end	02/12/2025 3.00 pm	4	Technical bid opening	03/12/2025 3.05 pm onward
5	Price bid opening	04/12/2025 10.30 am onward			

The Competent Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof Conditional offers will not be accepted.

**Note. 1** Please refer detailed tender notice on website.

**Note. 2** Corrigendum / Amendments if any could be published only on the website.

**CPRO / A / 1001**

**MHADA - Leading Housing Authority in the Nation**

Follow us: @mhadaofficial

**Sd/-**

**Executive Engineer (W), M. S I B Board, Mumbai**

**TENDERS & NOTICES**

**FOR DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED TENDER & NOTICE ADS CONTACT**

**Vinayak 9819512366**

**Sandesh 9819316694**

**Ravi 9869993858**





**ARIES**

MARCH 21 – APRIL 20

Those in a relationship may want to take it to the next level. A delayed payment is received (finally). **Cosmic tip:** Don't waste the present moment regretting the past, which can't be altered.



**TAURUS**

APRIL 21 – MAY 20

It's important to have an agenda every day since this is an extra busy time for work. **Cosmic tip:** Meet friends, but only those who have proved their genuineness over time.



**GEMINI**

MAY 21 – JUNE 21

When important points are being discussed at work, then bring up two issues you feel need explaining. Get enough sleep. **Cosmic tip:** Discuss each issue, no matter how small instead of a simmering quietness.

**WORDSEARCH CHINESE RIVERS**

Can you find the words connected in one way or the other with the theme indicated by the title in today's Word Search? The words may be read horizontally, vertically or diagonally either forwards or backwards, but always in straight lines. Use a ruler to cross them through as you find them.

- Anzi, Argun, Fen, Huai, Lancang, Liaohe, Mekong, Nuijiang, Songhua, Suifen, Tarim, Tumen, Usuri, Wei, Yalu, Yangtze, Yellow, Yuxi



**ASTRO COLLOQUY WITH SHIRLEY BOSE**

shirley.bose@mid-day.com



**SCORPIO** OCT 23 – NOV 22

Work ethics are strictly adhered to. An assignment you thought was being given to another colleague to complete, comes to you. **Cosmic tip:** Practice moderation in all aspects of life.



**CANCER**

JUNE 22 – JULY 23

Meeting friends for a little while is clarified initially before meeting, since you have other plans, too. **Cosmic tip:** Be aware of a crossroads reached that involves making an aware decision.



**LEO**

JULY 24 – AUG 23

Usually making practical decisions; it's surprising when an impulsive idea is taken forward. Think once again. **Cosmic tip:** Keep words and behaviour professionally acceptable, even if the other person doesn't.



**VIRGO**

AUG 24 – SEPT 23

For a change, one issue has no solution; the best way is to allow time to sort it out. Drink enough water. **Cosmic tip:** Consider pluses and minuses of a job offer before deciding.



**LIBRA**

SEPT 24 – OCT 22

Making time for each other keeps personal relationships stable. Try not being impatient at work. Cut down on fried foods. **Cosmic tip:** Diplomacy with all trimmings added makes it easier to get views across.



**SAGITTARIUS**

NOV 23 – DEC 22

Be aware of subtle manipulation covered up with caring words that make you think the person is thinking about your wellbeing. **Cosmic tip:** Work through karmas without being attached to rewards.



**CAPRICORN**

DEC 23 – JAN 20

Work related career is hectic, but rewarding. Stop yourself from giving advice unless asked for. **Cosmic tip:** Be careful about believing what seems like the truth. You may be shocked later.



**AQUARIUS**

JAN 21 – FEB 19

This karmic cycle helps job seekers. Making time to counsel someone younger brings a change in mindset. **Cosmic tip:** Be aware of what the body hints as changes to be incorporated for continued good health.



**PISCES**

FEB 20 – MARCH 20

Changing time management techniques helps create some more time to make you more organised. **Cosmic tip:** Maintain a calm inner and outer attitude to bring desired results.



**She says she is not interested!**

I want to marry one of my friends, but she is not keen and says she isn't interested in me. I don't know why she feels this way because we have been friends since school and our families know each other well. We are very fond of each other, and I believe we would have a great marriage because we have similar backgrounds and like the same things. She has been single for two years and I know she is not dating, so her response has been confusing because I thought what I was suggesting would be good for her as well as my future. Should I tell her I am willing to wait, or assume there is no hope and give up on this ever happening? It makes me sad because I can see why we would



**DR. LOVE**

make a great couple. You may have the best possible reasons for why this works, but no relationship can survive if both partners don't believe in it. She has made her intentions clear, and her being single has nothing to do with whether she needs to give this a chance or not. If you really are a good friend, what you should do is learn to accept her for who she is and acknowledge that she is an adult capable of making her own life decisions. Accept what she has to say and move on.

How do I respond when a guy compliments me? I tend to struggle with this, and they don't know how to react, which makes things awkward, and I end up losing out on the possibility of spending time with people I like. I think I have missed going on multiple dates because of my inability to say something nice in return. It's a compliment, which is a good thing, so all you have to do is thank the person. You don't have to come up with anything witty or respond with a similar compliment of your own. Sometimes, just being yourself is the best thing.

The inbox is now open to take your most carnal and amorous queries. Send your questions on email to lovedoc@mid-day.com

**MEDIUM SUDOKU**

	1		3			6		
	3		5				8	7
4			8		1			
		8				5	7	2
5	7	1				3		
			4	3				9
6	4				2		5	
		9			6		2	

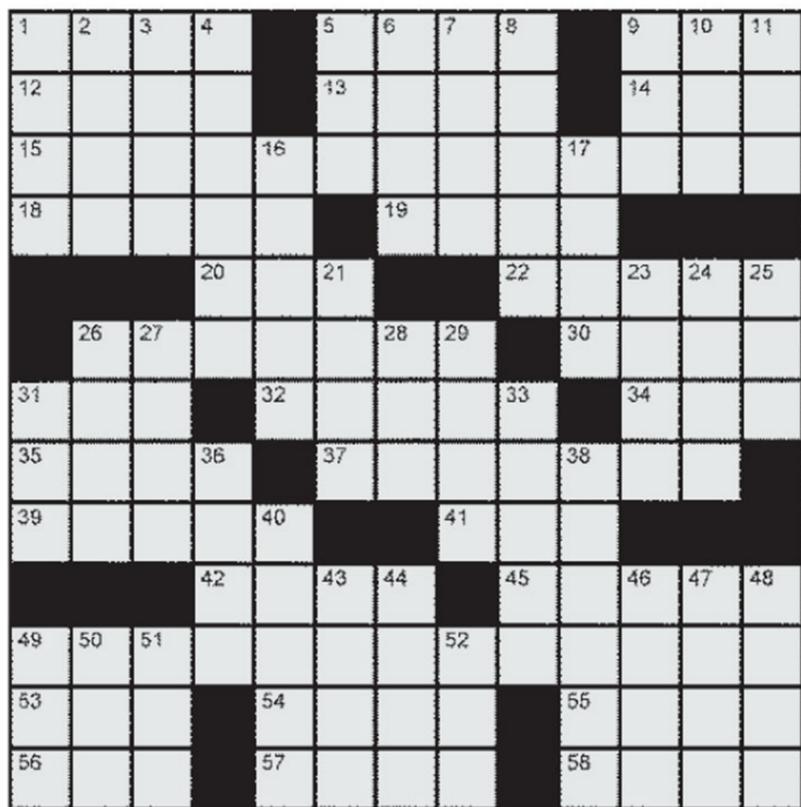
**WHAT TO DO** Fill each empty cell with a digit from 1-9, ensuring that no digit is repeated in any row, column or 3x3 square.

**FIENDISH SUDOKU**

7	13	7		12		13	16	9
		8	7	12	9			
10							15	
16		15			9			8
16				10	14	6	12	
8	13	10						
		14		15		8		14
7	9		10	10		17	10	
	10			6				

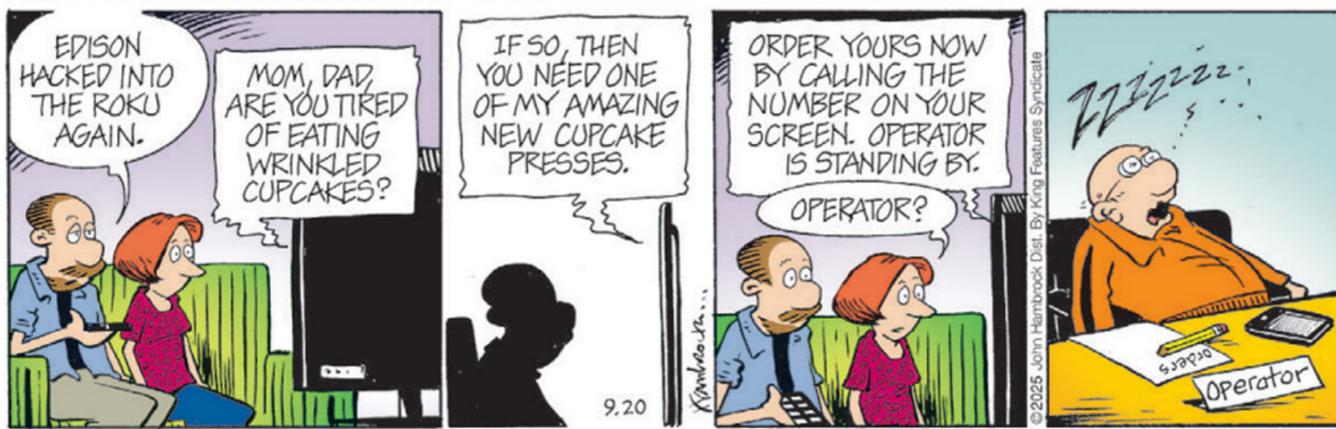
**WHAT TO DO** Place the numbers 1-9 exactly once per row, column and 3 x 3 bold-lined box. Additionally the sum total of the squares in each dashed-line shape must match the total given in that shape, and you may not repeat a number within a dashed-line shape.

CLASSIC CROSSWORD 11791



- ACROSS**
- River in Europe
  - Harem rooms
  - Tack on
  - Water plant
  - Titular king of Naples (1409-80)
  - \_\_\_ by : manage, as in "how will we \_\_\_ without a car"?
  - Nouns, pronouns, verbs, etc (5,2,6)
  - Defence assn. disbanded in 1977
  - Uncles in Spain
  - Music director Malik
  - Sailing boat
  - Tense, straight-laced
  - Tennis star Nastase
  - Large Scale Integration, abbr.
  - Near
  - And for the German
  - Greek peak
  - Longed for
  - Shows off
  - Bollywood's Aishwarya \_\_\_ Bachchan
  - Inst. of Elec. and Electronics Engrs.
  - Muscular contraction
  - Outside the limits of decent society? (6,3,4)
  - Pray for us - \_\_\_ pro nobis ?
  - Satisfy with food
  - Part of QED
  - Timothy's petname
  - Australian birds
  - Hindu deity
- DOWN**
- Depletes or drains
  - Wings or winglike parts
  - Taj Mahal city
  - Rapping sound of door knocker (3-3)
  - Spanish gold
  - Clever with the hands
  - Am Natl Stds Inst.
  - "Posey" anagram for our local office-boy?
  - Grow old
  - Cal. month
  - Direct to home, abbr.
  - Alternative rockers \_\_\_ Youth
  - Actor Morales
  - Repulsive or offensive to sight
  - Across or down - this is one
  - India for Indians!
  - Mr Kennedy or Mr. Turner
  - Now CIS
  - Leaning Tower's city
  - Weeding implement
  - An old Russian ruler
  - High tennis shot
  - Delete
  - Exchange fee
  - Pinched or bit
  - Perceive
  - Dutch cheese
  - You too in Latin (2,2)
  - Swiss river - change of "area"?
  - European - "Val's" changed?
  - Mark Zuckerberg's company
  - Automated online program
  - Gad's son ?
  - Root vegetable
  - He is, contracted?

THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE - JOHN HAMBROCK



CALVIN & HOBBS - BILL WATTERSON



ZITS - Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



BETWEEN FRIENDS - Sandra Bell-Lundy

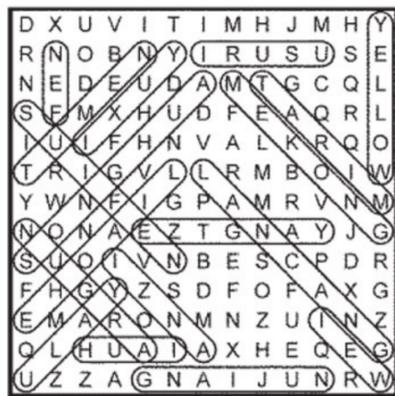


TEASER

I have one, you have one.  
If you remove the first letter, a bit remains.  
If you remove the second, bit still remains.  
After much trying, you might be able to remove the third one also, but it remains.  
It dies hard!

SOLUTIONS

WORDSEARCH



MEDIUM SUDOKU

8	1	5	3	2	7	6	9	4
2	3	6	5	4	9	1	8	7
4	9	7	8	6	1	2	3	5
9	6	8	1	3	4	5	7	2
3	2	4	6	7	5	9	1	8
5	7	1	2	9	8	3	4	6
7	5	2	4	1	3	8	6	9
6	4	3	9	8	2	7	5	1
1	8	9	7	5	6	4	2	3

FIENDISH SUDOKU

4	8	2	5	9	3	6	7	1
3	5	1	6	4	2	7	9	8
8	2	7	1	6	4	3	5	9
9	7	3	8	2	5	4	1	6
6	1	9	4	7	8	5	3	2
7	9	8	2	3	6	1	4	5
1	4	5	9	8	7	2	6	3
5	3	6	7	1	9	8	2	4
2	6	4	3	5	1	9	8	7

CLASSIC CROSSWORD

S	A	A	R	O	D	A	S	A	D	D
A	L	G	A	R	E	N	E	G	E	T
P	A	R	T	S	O	F	S	P	E	E
S	E	A	T	O	T	I	O	S		
	A	N	U		Y	A	C	H	T	
	U	P	T	I	G	H	T	I	L	I
L	S	I	C	L	O	S	E	U	N	D
O	S	S	A	Y	E	A	R	N	E	D
B	R	A	G	S	R	A	I			
	I	E	E	E	S	P	A	S	M	
B	E	Y	O	N	D	T	H	E	P	A
O	R	A	S	A	T	E	R	A	T	
T	I	M	E	M	U	S	D	E	V	A

TEASER

Habit

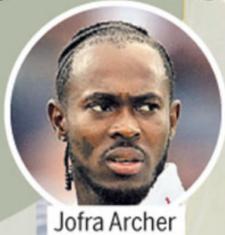


# CLASHES OF THE TITANS!

As the Ashes series begins today, **mid-day** highlights five key battles that could decide the outcome of the opening Test at Perth

## Steve Smith vs Jofra Archer

STEVEN Smith leads Australia at Perth in the absence of skipper Pat Cummins. Though Jofra Archer has never dismissed Smith in a Test, their fierce rivalry from the 2019 series — the England pacer's debut series — is memorable. Archer's express pace and short-pitched bowling forced Smith to retire hurt with concussion after being hit on the helmet at Lord's. Smith must maintain focus on a pace-friendly, bouncy Perth wicket, while Archer enters the contest confident after claiming nine wickets in two Tests against India.



Jofra Archer

## Nathan Lyon vs Joe Root

THE duel between England batting star Joe Root and Aussie off-spinner Nathan Lyon is one of the high-stakes match-ups at the Ashes. While Lyon poses a consistent threat, dismissing Root eight times, the middle-order batter has scored 439 runs with an average of nearly 55 against the spinner. Root's tendency to bat long will depend on how he negotiates Lyon. If Root dominates Lyon, it frees up the other batters to play Bazball, but if Lyon gets Root early, the visitors could crumble.



Nathan Lyon

Joe Root

## Marnus Labuschagne vs Mark Wood

MARK Wood's raw pace makes him one of the most dangerous weapons for England, and Aussie top-order batter Marnus Labuschagne will face a stern test in Perth. Labuschagne, who was dropped from the Test series against West Indies in June-July, is desperate to prove himself. However, Wood's ability to generate



Marnus Labuschagne

Mark Wood

bounce and rapid speed will put No. 3 Labuschagne under pressure early in the innings. In their head-to-head record, Wood has dismissed Labuschagne five times in Tests, including in both innings of the last 2023 Ashes Test at The Oval.

## Scott Boland vs Zak Crawley

AUSTRALIA pacer Scott Boland boasts a significant record against England at home, claiming 18 wickets in three Tests. With Boland likely to open the bowling in the absence of skipper Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, he poses a serious threat for England opener Zak Crawley. Boland, 36, has enjoyed



Scott Boland

Zak Crawley

Compiled by  
Rohan Koli



Australia captain Steve Smith (left) and England skipper Ben Stokes with the Ashes trophy on the eve of the opening Test in Perth.  
PICS/GETTY IMAGES, AFP

## Mitchell Starc vs Ben Stokes



Mitchell Starc

ENGLAND skipper Ben Stokes has often struggled against Aussie pace spearhead Mitchell Starc. The left-arm pacer holds a tremendous record against Stokes, having dismissed him nine times in Tests, while the English all-rounder averages just over 20 runs against him. Starc's ability to hit the deck hard and generate significant bounce, especially with the new ball, remains a constant threat for Stokes who will definitely look to embody the Bazball philosophy to demoralise the 35-year-old Aussie pacer early on.

## Ben Stokes urges England to rewrite Ashes history

PERTH: England captain Ben Stokes admitted on Thursday beating "a seriously good" Australia will be tough, but said his team were up for the challenge and had a golden opportunity to rewrite Ashes history.

The tourists have not won a series in Australia for 15 years and have crashed to defeat in 13 of 15 Tests since, with two more drawn.

But with the hosts missing influential pace spearheads Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood for the first Test starting in Perth on Friday, Stokes was upbeat about England's chances. "Coming to Australia, playing against Australia, they're a seriously good team," he said. "Everyone, including myself, knows the record of England over the history of Ashes in Australia isn't the best.

"But you know, we've got an opportunity here over the next two-and-a-half months to write our own history.

"We've obviously come here with a goal and that goal is to get on that plane mid-January, returning to England being Ashes winners," he added.

AFP

**LIVE TODAY**  
Australia vs England,  
Day 1: Star Sports 1, HD  
& JioHotstar app, 07.50



Jake Weatherald

## Weatherald and Doggett to debut for Oz in 1st Test

PERTH: Australia skipper Steve Smith said on Thursday it was "really exciting" to see Jake Weatherald and Brendan Doggett make their debuts in the opening Ashes Test against England, backing them to perform on the biggest stage.

The pair, both 31, will earn their baggy green caps at a sold-out Perth Stadium on Friday — the first time Australia have chosen multiple debutants in a Test since early 2019. Weatherald's inclusion as Usman Khawaja's sixth opening partner since David Warner retired last year means in-form Marnus Labuschagne can return to his favoured No. 3.

AFP

2ND TEST BUILD-UP

SUBODH MAYURE  
subodh.mayure@mid-day.com

TEAM India's batters were tested by a rank turner and failed in the first Test against South Africa at Eden Gardens, but the red-soil pitch for the second fixture at Guwahati's Barsapara Cricket Stadium will be a sporting one, reckons Assam's Ranji team skipper Sumit Ghadigaonkar.

Guwahati, the home city of BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, will be hosting its maiden Test, becoming the 28th Test venue in the country.

Ghadigaonkar, who has played a lot of cricket at this ground, believes the pacers will enjoy bowling even after the first session on the opening day. "I don't know on which pitch this Test will be played, but whichever pitch it will be, it will have a good, even bounce, where initially there will be moisture till around an hour after the first session on Day One. Whenever we play here, whoever wins the toss, chooses to bowl first," Ghadigaonkar, who led from the front, scoring 53 and 67 to help Assam draw their Elite Group 'C' Ranji Trophy match against Bengal at Kalyani on Wednesday, told mid-day on Thursday.

Fast outfield

Santacruz-based Ghadigaonkar, who plays club cricket for Matunga's New Hind Sporting Club and leads the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in Mumbai's office cricket tournaments, added that the Barsapara ground's outfield is pretty fast too. "This is our [Assam] home ground. It's a nice ground and has good infrastructure. The outfield is very fast. After getting settled, most batsmen have enjoyed

# NOT MUCH SPIN IN THIS TALE!

India will be greeted by a sporting track for 2nd Test that begins at Guwahati on Saturday, says Assam's Mumbai-based captain Sumit Ghadigaonkar; former Assam coach Trevor Gonsalves feels spinners will have to work hard



India vice-captain Rishabh Pant (left) inspects the Barsapara Stadium pitch in Guwahati on Thursday. PIC/PTI

batting. So, if the batsman can deal with the bowlers initially and till around an hour after the first session, I'm sure there's a good chance to score big," added Ghadigaonkar, who scored 107 against Railways at this venue in a Ranji match last season and was also East Zone's highest run-getter with 633 runs. Meanwhile, Trevor Gonsalves, who

was Assam's Ranji team head coach for two seasons (2022 to 2024), felt the pitch will offer equal opportunities to all.

'Pacers will have their share'

"It's a very sporting wicket. In the morning, the pacers have their share, while in the afternoon, batsmen will have a good chance, and as the game progresses it [pitch] will start turning. Spinners will surely come into play, after the first or second day, but they will have to bowl well. If you make

a mistake, you will be punished. Overall this is a very good Test wicket. It won't be a rank turner," said Gonsalves.

The former Vidarbha pacer, who is currently guiding IPL side Punjab Kings as assistant bowling coach, also insisted that the Guwahati Test will last all five days: "Barsapara has been a very good ground with a nice drainage system. The dressing room and practice area are very good. And the wicket will easily last five days."



Sumit Ghadigaonkar



Trevor Gonsalves

## Top-order must step up for India 'A' in semis

INDIA 'A' VS B'DESH 'A'

DOHA: India 'A' will need a heftier contribution from their top-order batters to support the in-form Vaibhav Suryavanshi when they take on a tricky Bangladesh 'A' in their Rising Stars Asia Cup semi-final here on Friday.

Suryavanshi, the second highest run-maker with 201 runs in this T20 event, has done most of the heavy-lifting with the bat while making a blistering hundred and 45.

But other batters in the line-up have not exactly set the tournament ablaze so far.

A far more rounded outing from batters is mandatory against Bangladesh as the latter is not a team to be taken lightly.

They have bowled out a capable Afghanistan 'A' side for a paltry 78 and then stretched a strong Sri Lanka 'A' all the way till the last over of a league match.

PTI



All eyes will be on opener Vaibhav Suryavanshi to provide India 'A' with a solid start. PIC/GETTY IMAGES



LIVE TODAY  
India 'A' vs B'desh 'A':  
Sony Ten 1, 3, HD &  
Sony Liv app, 15.00

## PM wishes Mandhana, Palash ahead of wedding

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended his warm wishes to World Cup-winning cricketer Smriti Mandhana and music composer-filmmaker Palash Muchhal, marking a special moment for the couple ahead of their wedding on November 23.

In his note, the PM described their union as the coming together of two accomplished journeys.

IAN S

## INDIA'S BATTING COACH ON CRITICISM TOWARDS HEAD COACH GAUTAM GAMBHIR

### Maybe some people have agendas: Sitanshu Kotak

GUWAHATI: India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak is livid with the criticism that has been directed towards head coach Gautam Gambhir after India's defeat to South Africa in the opening Test and he feels some of it is by people with vested interests.

The 30-run defeat in Kolkata was India's fourth Test loss at home in the last one year under Gambhir's stewardship.

"Gautam Gambhir, Gautam Gambhir' [criticism] is being done. I am saying this because I am a staff and I feel bad. That's not the way," Kotak said on Thursday ahead of the second Test starting on Saturday.

He said the criticism is sometimes agenda-driven.

"Maybe some people individually have agendas. Good luck to them, but it is very bad," the former Saurashtra batter added.

Gambhir has drawn flak for defending the pitch used



Sitanshu Kotak (right) with head coach Gautam Gambhir. PIC/GETTY IMAGES

for the opening Test in Kolkata where India lost despite chasing a modest 124. Gambhir had criticised his batters for not being able to adapt, which was a topic Kotak brought up too. "What about the players? No one is saying that this batsman did this, this bowler did that, or we can do something different in batting," Kotak said referring to the second innings batting collapse.

PTI

## Gill to undergo fitness test, but unlikely to play 2nd Test

GUWAHATI: India captain Shubman Gill, who has not trained due to a neck spasm sustained during the first Test against South Africa, will undergo a fitness test on Friday in a last-ditch attempt to be available for the second game, batting coach Sitanshu Kotak has indicated.

Gill developed the spasm on the second day of the first Test in Kolkata that India lost by 30 runs and hasn't returned to the nets ever since.

While his chances re-

main slim, the BCCI sports science team is waiting as long as possible before taking a final call. The second Test begins on Saturday.

"The decision [to play Gill] will be taken tomorrow evening, because the doctors have to decide

whether, even if he is fully recovered, there's a chance of the spasm recurring during the match. If there is a

doubt, then I am sure he will rest for one more game," explained Kotak.

PTI



## Guwahati track looks good for batting: SA bowling coach

GUWAHATI: South Africa's bowling coach Piet Botha feels the wicket at the Barsapara Stadium will be much better for batting, but he is interested in knowing if the curators will be shaving off the liberal covering of grass from the red soil track.

The second and final Test starts here on Saturday with India trailing 0-1 after their defeat in Kolkata.

"As far as the pitch is con-

cerned, it's still two days to go. So it's difficult to predict if they will actually shave off

more grass or not. That will obviously make a difference," Botha told the media on Thursday.

"But what we have heard is that it seems to be a good batting

track up front, and spin comes into picture late. But we'll have to wait and see," said the South African bowling coach.

PTI



Piet Botha

# I ONLY HAVE MYSELF TO BLAME: GUJRATHI

Indian GM Vidit rues inadequate preparation that led to his third-round exit at the hands of USA's Sam Shankland at ongoing Chess World Cup in Goa

KARAN SHANKAR

karan.shankar@mid-day.com

INDIAN Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi said it's a pity that he couldn't make a deeper run at the Chess World Cup in Goa after his third-round defeat to USA's Sam Shankland, but attributed the poor result to inadequate training as compared to his previous showings at the global showpiece event in 2021 and 2023, when he reached the quarter-finals on both occasions.

**'Felt I was better than him'**

Despite losing 2.5-3.5 after the second set of tie-break games against Shankland, Gujrathi, 31, felt he played better than his opponent. However, Gujrathi also reckoned he handled the result better than he has done in the past. "I dealt with it [loss] better than my previous tournaments. Generally, I am very upset when I lose. This time I was upset because I felt I was the better player throughout the match. So, it did bother me, but I moved on from it. Probably it helped that I was surrounded by my loved ones, who helped me get over it," said Gujrathi, adding that he only had himself to blame for the result.

**Training not good enough**

"It's a pity that I didn't go further, especially given that I reached the quarter-finals in the past two editions, but it was also expected because the training which I had done was not at the same level as the previous tournaments. So, I have only myself to blame."

When asked what the two-time Chess Olympiad gold



Vidit Gujrathi (right) and Sam Shankland during their Chess World Cup match in Goa. PIC/FIDE INSTAGRAM

medallist does to recharge and reset from a loss like this, he answered: "Unlike the other tournaments, the beauty of the World Cup is you don't know how long you will last at the tournament, so you block your calendar till the end of the month [laughs]. That's why I had time on my hands after getting knocked out. I never really get time to take vacations, but as I was in Goa with my family, I decided to extend my stay for two-three days. This small vacation helped me mentally because it's hard to understand for a bystander how intense the tournament can be," Gujrathi said, while going on to explain how draining a chess tournament really is. "In chess, you prepare a lot before a game. The preparation doesn't stop at home and even during a

tournament, you prepare for like six hours — three hours before the game and three hours the night before it. The game itself can go for up to six-seven hours. And the pressure you feel is a lot. So, it's very important to unwind. This time I was able to do it because of a vacation, but generally, I just move on to the next tournament," the 2023 Asian Games silver medallist added.

**Gunning for GCL title**

Gujrathi, who has a peak Elo rating of 2747, is now focusing on the Global Chess League (GCL), which is to be held in Mumbai from December 13 to 24. The 2023 Grand Swiss champion is looking forward to winning the franchise-based tournament with his team Triveni Con-

tinental Kings for the third consecutive time on home soil. "It's amazing that GCL is played in India because I feel it belongs here. The concept was visualised here and the amount of fans Indian chess has, I don't think any country can match it. As a player, you want to have that [support]. It's amazing that it's happening in Mumbai, The players will be surprised with the attention the fans will give them. As for me, I will do my best to help my team win again," he said.

**'It helped that I was surrounded by loved ones. They helped me get over it [the loss]'**

Vidit Gujrathi

## Indian Pickleball League announces franchises

THE Indian Pickleball League (IPBL) announced five franchises for its inaugural season from December 1-7 at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.

Launched by The Times Group and sanctioned by the Indian Pickleball Association under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, the IPBL's announcement was made at an event in Chennai attended by Thiru Udhayanidhi Stalin, Deputy CM of Tamil Nadu.

The franchises are M3M Gurugram, Nazara Mumbai, Ben-

galuru Blasters, Chennai Super Warriors and Hyderabad Royals. It is learnt that a sixth team will be announced later.

"These teams represent the scale, ambition, and reach that define the IPBL. They bring a fresh competitive spirit that will make pickleball a modern fixture in India's sporting landscape," said Vineet Jain, Managing Director, The Times Group.

Pankaj Bansal, Director, M3M India, said, "Gurugram loves

fast, social, high-energy sport. Being the city's first major league franchise makes this moment special."

Vasanth Kalyan, CEO of Bengaluru Blasters said: "Bengaluru reflects the pulse of new India — quick, expressive, and competitive. Pickleball feels tailor-made for this city."

Nitish Mittersain, CEO of Nazara Technologies, who are backing the Mumbai franchise added: "Mumbai thrives on speed, skill, and

competition. And Pickleball fits right in."

Dr Swetha Sundeep of Accord Group, who are behind Chennai Super Warriors, said: "Chennai has always backed competitive, high-energy sport. Pickleball adds a new dimension to that spirit."

Anubhav Tyagi, Managing Director of Operam Ventures, who own Hyderabad Royals said: "Hyderabad is ready for the next big sport. Pickleball has found early, enthusiastic adoption here, and IPBL gives us a national stage to build on that momentum."



Vineet Jain, MD, The Times Group

## Minakshi, Preeti among four boxers to bag gold medals

WORLD BOXING CUP

GREATER NOIDA: Minakshi (48kg), Preeti (54kg), Arundhati Choudhary (70kg), and Nupur (80+kg) powered their way to gold medals at the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 in front of a packed house at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex on Thursday.

Minakshi set the tone for the day with a near-flawless 5:0 win over reigning Asian

**Minakshi set the tone with a near-flawless 5:0 win over Asian Champion Farzona Fozilova of Uzbekistan. Preeti followed it up with another dominant 5:0 performance to overpower Italy's Sirine Charrabi**



Minakshi

Preeti

Champion Farzona Fozilova of Uzbekistan. Preeti followed it up with another dominant 5:0 performance, overpowering Italy's World Championship medallist Sirine Charrabi.

Later, Arundhati Choudhary dismantled Uzbekistan's Aziza Zokirova 5-0 before Nupur edged out Uzbekistan's Sotimboeva Oltinoy 3:2 in a tense, tactical showdown.

Earlier, Jadumani Singh, Pawan Bartwal, Abhinash Jamwal, and Ankush Phangal finished with well-earned silver medals.

IAN S

## Thakur Ramnarayan, Jankidevi emerge U-12 handball champs



The victorious Thakur Ramnarayan girls. PICS/SHADAB KHAN

MSSA U-12 HANDBALL

RUFUS VEDANAYAGAM

sports@mid-day.com

THAKUR Ramnarayan Public School (Dahisar) and Jankidevi Public School (Andheri) emerged champions in the U-12 girls and boys categories respectively of the Dream Sports Mumbai School Sports Association (MSSA) inter-school handball tournament at Azad Maidan on Thursday.

Thakur Ramnarayan carved out a narrow 4-3 win

over Jankidevi in the girls final, with Triumala Kathurogai scoring a hat-trick for the Dahisar outfit. Khanak Vaghashiya also added a goal to Thakur Ramnarayan's tally.

For Jankidevi, who were 0-4 down at one stage, the fightback came through goals from Aairah Gohabori, Kyra Shirodkar and Fatima Khan.

In the U-12 boys final, the Jankidevi lads romping to a 3-0 win over Vibgyor HS (Malad). Mohammad Shaikh scored twice while Krishiv Parmar added a goal for the winners.



The triumphant Jankidevi boys

# The all-new Hyundai VENUE. Tech up. Go beyond.



Price starts at  
**₹ 7 89 900\***  
Now in showrooms.

Scan for a  
thrilling  
experience.



Dual 62.5 cm (12.3" + 12.3") curved panoramic display with Connected Car Navigation Cockpit (ccNC)\* and Controller - OTA  
Dual tone (Dark navy & dove grey) interior theme with terrazzo-textured crashpad finish



Dark chrome radiator grille  
Quad beam LED headlamps



Spacious cabin - More head room,  
shoulder room and knee room



Front row ventilated seats



Surround view monitor (SVM)



Bose premium sound  
8 speaker system



Hyundai SmartSense -  
Level 2 ADAS (16 features)

<b>6 AT in 1.5 l Diesel</b>	<b>New</b>
<b>Engine options</b>	
Kappa 1.2 l MPI Petrol	
Kappa 1.0 l Turbo GDI Petrol	
U2 1.5 l CRDi Diesel	
<b>Transmission options</b>	
MT   AT   DCT	

**Super strong body structure**  
**33 Standard safety features**  
**More than 65 advanced safety features**



To enquire give a missed call at **955295868**

my Hyundai app | Hyundai ClicktoBuy | **3** Year / **Unlimited** Kilometer Warranty | **7** Year / **Extended** Warranty\*\* | **5** Year / **Shield of Trust** Running Repair Package\*\* | **5** Year / **Shield of Trust Super** Maintenance Package\*\* | **10** Year / **Road Side Assistance (RSA)\*\*** | **Shield of Trust** Bodycare Body Maintenance Package\*\* | **Bluelink** 3 Years free Bluelink subscription | Accelerated by **NVIDIA** \*9.24 cm (3.7") ccNC navigation system is accelerated by NVIDIA

**For Information Contact:** Toll Free: 1800114645 **Mumbai:** Arsh Hyundai, Sion, Ph: 07375002009, 02240326600, Prabhadevi, Ph: 08976850099, 02235269999 **Modi Hyundai,** Malad, Ph: 09887733000, 8300283002 Kanjurmarg, Ph: 9887733000, 02267244444 **Modi Hyundai,** Santacruz, Ph: 7874747443 **Shreenath Hyundai,** Andheri, Ph: 66887777/01 Chembur (West), Ph: 61939393, **Sai Auto Hyundai,** Kandivali Ph: 68855555, **Sai Auto Hyundai,** Andheri (East) Ph: 62129999, **Shreem Hyundai,** Mahalaxmi Ph: 7600010006, 0223029999 Borivali, Ph: 7600020006, 02269019999 **Kamal Hyundai** Thane, Ph: 8657047204 **Navi Mumbai:** Sharayu Hyundai, Ph: 41575700/57, 48964180, Pen Wadkhali, Ph: 8047363111, **Kamal Hyundai,** Ph: 8291914553, Airoli, Ph: 8652639325 **Vishal Hyundai,** Ph: 8422810900, Alibaug, Ph: 8422810904 **Thane:** Modi Hyundai, Ph: 7874747443 **Modi Hyundai,** Virar Ph: 7874747443, Vasai, Ph: 7874747443, Wada: 8655964262 **Modi Hyundai,** Kalyan, Ph: 8300683006 Ambernath, Ph: 7900879008 Shahapur Ph: 8764287642 **Index Hyundai,** Mira Road, Ph: 28487500, **Arsh Hyundai,** Dombivali, Ph: 08976910000, 02265749999 **Bolsar:** STS Hyundai, Ph: 7719091000, Dahanu Ph: 7719091000 **Akola:** Prabh Hyundai, Ph: 9022037966, Washim, Ph: 8329504371 **Buldhana:** Siddh Hyundai, Ph: 9673299111, Khargone Ph: 7030947711 **Ahilya Nagar:** Lakshi Hyundai, Ph: 7745010006 Newasa, Ph: 8484912455, **Shree Salasar Hyundai,** Ph: 8087789948 **Amravati:** Ketan Hyundai, Ph: 982227231, Warud, Ph: 9763116364 **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar:** Bhuvan Hyundai, Ph: 9370593300 Vajapur Ph: 8411096699, Jalna, Ph: 8698453355 **Sohamm Hyundai,** Ph: 7588076777, Sillod, Ph: 8698453355 **Lakhani Hyundai,** Ph: 7410725779 **Baramati:** Somani Hyundai, Ph: 8855915591, Patas, Ph: 9168710043 Indapur Ph: 9168710045, **Beed:** Deep Hyundai, Ph: 8087214545, Ambejogai Ph: 8087214545 **Chandrapur:** Ketan Hyundai, Ph: 7720020135, Gadchiroli, Ph: 7720020135, Wani, Ph: 7720020135 **Dhule:** Navkar Hyundai, Ph: 9168695946, Nandurbar Ph: 9130044596 **Kolhapur:** Mai Hyundai, Ph: 8888007766 Kudal, Ph: 9922429007 Ichalkaranji, Ph: 8805848585, Jaysingpur, Ph: 8805848585 **Unique Hyundai,** Ph: 9146012022 Mudhal Titta, Ph: 9146012068 Ghadinglaj, Ph: 9146012352, Chandgad Ph: 9146012057 Shiroli Ph: 7420002187 **Ratnagiri:** Mai Hyundai, Ph: 9922949540 Chiplun, Ph: 8888812502, Kudal, Ph: 7410006037, Kankavali, Ph: 8956130166 **Nagpur:** Aryodaya Hyundai, Ph: 7719966655, **Eros Hyundai,** Ph: 9372252306, Bhandara, Ph: 9371444016 **Ketan Hyundai,** Ph: 9822200455 Gondia, Ph: 7888045259, Katol Ph: 9922820123 Umred, Ph: 9922820123, **Wardha:** Eros Hyundai, Ph: 9371444016, Hinganghat, Ph: 9371444016 **Nanded:** Jaya Hyundai, Ph: 9158882666 Parbhani, Ph: 9158190888, Hingoli, Ph: 7887884242 **Latur:** Jaya Hyundai, Ph: 9158023888 Udgir Ph: 9158023888 **Nasik:** Ujjwal Hyundai, Ph: 9011093716, Niphad, Ph: 7774083682, **Shirode Hyundai,** Ph: 8669604425 Pimpalgaon Ph: 8669604433, **Radiant Hyundai** Ph: 8888303066 **Malegaon:** Kankaria Hyundai, Ph: 9923958299, 9923953799, Kalwan Ph: 9923958399, 9923957499, **Pune:** Garve Hyundai, Wakad, Ph: 9545557742, Kalewadi Ph: 9890422300, Wadgaon, Ph: 9545457562, Naryangaon, Ph: 9545556679 **Kothari Hyundai,** Kharadi, Ph: 9923504040, Shirur, Ph: 9158995712 **Kothari Hyundai,** Shankar Sheth Road, Ph: 9923604040, Aundh, Ph: 9923804040, Khed Shiva Pur, Ph: 9764444164 **Kundan Hyundai,** Chinchwad, Ph: 9011090000, Bavdhan, Ph: 7030900512, Chakan, Ph: 9011960000, Pimple Saudagar, Ph: 7030900515 **Sanjay Hyundai,** Wakadewadi Shivaji Nagar, Ph: 9225889900 Bhosari, Ph: 9225889900 **Ishanya Hyundai,** Satara Road Ph: 7774062249, Wagholi, Ph: 0202999230, 7775078866, Ambegaon, Ph: 7774062230 **Mira Hyundai,** Warje, Ph: 8806765765, Pirangut, Ph: 8799973737 **R R Kirad Hyundai,** Hadapsar-manjari Ph: 7887884425 **Mittal Hyundai,** Viman Nagar Ph: 7378307008, **Somani Hyundai,** Shivaji Nagar, Ph: 9090474710, Bhor, Ph: 9168710053, Saswad Ph: 9168710040 **Modi Hyundai,** Baner, Ph: 9122891228, 8956219554 **Sangli:** Mai Hyundai, Ph: 77988886013, Kavthemahankal Ph: 8010905157, Tasgaon, Ph: 7720018301 Islampur Ph: 9168112626 **Solapur:** Gandhi Hyundai, Ph: 9822855500 Omurga Ph: 8975605500, 9822855500, Barshi, Ph: 8380025500 Pandharpur, Ph: 8380075500 Osmanabad, Ph: 8380015500, **Somani Hyundai,** Ph: 7887888914, Akluj, Ph: 9168710042 **Satara:** Kanase Hyundai, Ph: 9552592901 Karad, Ph: 7768009386 Phalton, Ph: 7768009387 Shirwal, Ph: 9552592901 **Jalgaon:** Focus Hyundai, Ph: 7722033990, RSO Amainer, Ph: 8888870957 Chalisgaon, Ph: 8888870958, Bhusawal Ph: 8888819825 **Yavatmal:** Ketan Hyundai, Ph: 9011071290 **Sangamner:** Shirode , Ph: 772001179, Shreerampur Ph: 7499158640

\*Terms & Conditions apply. \*\*Ex-showroom price mentioned is for HX 2 MT (Kappa 1.2 l MPI Petrol) variant. Creative shown is for representation purpose only. Features & specifications shown may vary or not be a part of standard fitment & are subject to change without prior notice. Hyundai Motor India Limited reserves the right to change specifications, colour, equipment and schemes at any time without prior notice. Images shown are for creative representation. The black shade on glasses is due to lighting effect. Size, colour may vary due to lighting and positioning effects. Bluelink functionality is dependent on adequate power supply and uninterrupted network connectivity. The Bluelink system is designed in such a way that it makes vehicle theft difficult if its circuit and battery connection is uninterrupted. Hyundai SmartSense, the Advanced Driver Assistance System is not a substitute for safe and attentive driving. Its effectiveness depends on various factors. Availability of Hyundai SmartSense Features may differ by variants. \*\*Upto 7 years extended warranty is applicable for all variants. It is applicable for upto 7 years or 1 40 000 kms whichever is earlier. \*For detailed terms & conditions of warranty refer owner's manual. \*\*For detailed terms & conditions of extended warranty & Shield of Trust/Super/Bodycare kindly visit Hyundai India website, <https://www.hyundai.co.in/>. Extended warranty, RSA and Shield of Trust Packages are on payable basis. For more details, consult the nearest Hyundai authorized dealer. Hyundai urges you to follow traffic rules-these are meant to keep you safe on roads. INNOCEAN-056/25